Gloria faces more protests over power bill

STORY ON PAGE A3

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2001 ★★ 96 PAGES 9 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 166 ₱15

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Joker cases Senate joint

BY C. AVENDAÑO

THE OFFICIAL count is not yet over but some sure winners in the senatorial race have begun making preparations for their job.

JOKER/ A6

ANONG COMMITTEE BA DYAN ANG WALANG TAKOT?

Sandigan: Erap must appear in court for trial

BY DONNA S. CUETO
AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

IN PERSON, not through television.

This was the reaction of Sandiganbayan Justice Narciso Nario to suggestion by a Cabinet official and a defense lawyer that the arraignment and trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada for perjury and plunder be held at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMCC).

Nario, head of Sandiganbayan's fourth division, said Estrada must appear in person at the division's courtroom for his May 31 arraignment on perjury charges.

Raymund Fortun, one of Estrada's lawyers,

SANDIGAN/ A20

ATE GLORIA GOES A-COURTING

President Macapagal, who's reinventing herself as big, caring sister to the poor sector of society, hosts street children and victims of child labor practices in Malacañang on Thursday.

JOAN BONDOC

Daza says LP may have paid election officials

BY CYNTHIA BORGUETA
PDI Visayas Bureau
AND DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

CATARMAN, Northern Samar—Governor-elect Raul Daza yesterday refused to categorically deny that the Liberal Party-Puwersa ng Masa gave out money to teacher-members of the Board of Election Inspectors in the province, but hinted that money did change hands.

Faced with the disclosure of a reelected LP mayor in Northern Samar that the LP paid "many" BEIs in the province, Daza said that if this were true, it was not intended to cheat the candidates of the People Power Coalition.

DAZA/ A6

GMA blinks on bungalow

Construction halted pending Sandigan ruling

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA
AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

THREATENED with an "avalanche of protests" President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered a halt to the construction of a detention facility for deposed President Joseph Estrada inside the compound of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) in Quezon City.

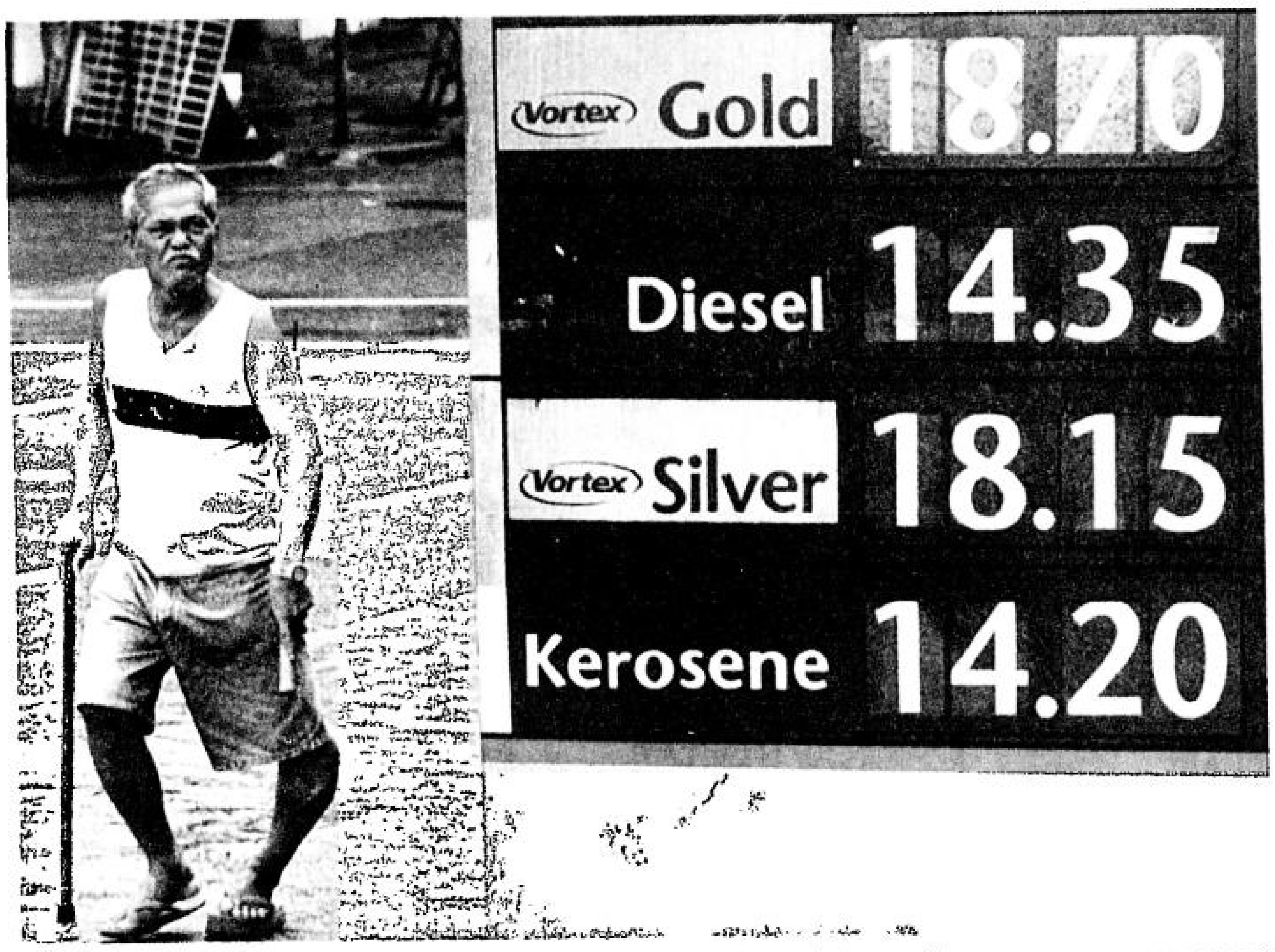
But public outrage had nothing to do with it, according to presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

"Right now it's been stopped because the administration decided we'll have to wait first for the Sandiganbayan decision on (Estrada's petition for) house arrest.

"We're not flip-flopping," Tiglao stressed.

After the President visited Estrada at the VMMC on Saturday, Tiglao announced that the President told Estrada she had no personal objection to his petition to be placed under house arrest. On Tuesday, she announced that groundwork had begun on a hospital annex for Estrada.

MACAPAGAL/ A20



BOWED by the weight of price increases, this Filipino Everyman can only scowl at more of the same.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Six Puwersa bets fight for last three slots

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA
AND CYNTHIA D. BALANA

IT WAS still an 8-4-1 advantage for the People Power Coalition at the end of the Commission on Elections' canvassing at 4 p.m. yesterday. Six Puwersa ng Masa candidates continued to slug it out for the last three slots in the Magic 13.

Reelectionist Juan Flavier, third placer at the end of the canvass on Wednesday, overtook erstwhile second placer Sergio Osmeña III by a mere 110,000 votes after the National Board of Canvassers had tallied 75 out of the 102 certificates of canvass (COCs).

The PPC last night maintained its 8-4-1 lead over PnM in the national tabulation of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections.

Based on 73.99 percent of the precincts as of 6:09 p.m., only PPC candidates Franklin Drilon and partymate Ramon Magsaysay Jr. were slugging it out for control of the fourth spot in the last 24 hours.

SIX/ A20

NAMFREL as of 6:09 p.m., May 24 148,720 precincts (73.99%)			COMELEC 4 p.m. 75 COCs	
1	DE CASTRO	11,879,719	1	11,461,964
2	FLAVIER	8,665,867	2	8,117,129
3	OSMEÑA	8,514,315	3	8,006,774
4	DRILON	8,326,485	4	7,926,082
5	MAGSAYSAY	8,313,354	7	7,853,488
6	ARROYO	8,302,854	5	7,891,643
7	VILLAR	8,154,974	6	7,862,151
8	PANGILINAN	8,048,694	8	7,606,282
9	ANGARA	7,909,973	9	7,376,674
10	LACSON	7,669,306	11	7,183,389
11	EJERCITO	7,634,067	12	7,154,713
12	HONASAN	7,560,355	13	7,148,859
13	RECTO	7,527,611	10	7,327,728
14	SANTIAGO	7,065,632	15	6,570,336
15	ENRILE	7,035,873	14	6,596,573
16	PUNO	6,386,355	16	5,891,913
17	TAÑADA	6,000,187	17	5,512,631
18	MERCADO	5,469,730	18	5,446,991
19	PAGDANGANAN	5,244,687	19	4,931,180
20	HERRERA	5,081,972	20	4,620,438
21	MONSOD	4,944,429	21	4,534,659
22	RASUL	3,728,689	24	3,244,559
23	MADRIGAL	3,660,759	22	3,457,498
24	CHATO	3,561,902	23	3,291,010
25	YASAY	3,448,451	25	3,171,869
26	CANOY	2,612,961	26	2,427,987
27	TAMANO	2,487,417	27	2,192,975
28	ADAZA	573,878	28	610,462
29	MORATO	498,395	30	403,779
30	NAVARRO	471,944	29	445,411

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS

San Juan Rep. Jose Mari Gonzales, defeated in his reelection bid, answers questions at Camp Crame after his arrest on Thursday for slapping the House Sergeant-at-arms last November when the Articles of Impeachment were sent to the Senate. His wife stands by him. *(Banner story on Page A25.)*

ROGER MARGALLO

Gloria warned: Oil price increases will alienate poor

TAKING the cue from fellow refiners Caltex and Petron, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. yesterday raised the prices of oil products by 43 to 48 centavos per liter as church and drivers' groups warned that the fuel price increase would further alienate President Macapagal-Arroyo from the poor.

"It (the rise) took into account the increase in crude prices and the depreciation of the peso against the dollar from March to April," a Pilipinas Shell spokesperson said.

The United Negros Drivers and Operators Center (Undoc) accused President Macapagal of allowing the oil firms to raise fuel prices to enable the firms to recover what they had allegedly contributed to the campaign kitty of the administration's People Power Coalition.

Jessie Ortega, Undoc secretary general, said the group of 12,000 drivers and operators would stage protests actions against the increase in gasoline and diesel prices.

Romulo Echauz, president of the Federation of Bacolod City Drivers Associations (Febacda), said his group would join Undoc's protest actions.

Echauz said the fuel price increase came without warning and "is very painful for the ordinary Filipino."

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Negros said the increase was timed right after the elections when the administration no longer needed to woo the people for votes.

The militant group said the fuel price increase was unjustified since there was no movement in the price of crude oil in

GLORIA/ A7

Resort raiders on the run

Military rules out Abu Sayyaf in attack

BY JOWEL F. CANUDAY
AND JONATHAN F. MA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MALITA, Davao del Sur—The armed men who attacked the Barcelo Pearl Farm Beach Resort Tuesday night are using four residents of Barangay Kidalapong here as guides and "human shields" against pursuing military and police forces.

Supt. Mario Premacio, deputy provincial police chief, announced this yesterday, but said government troops and the gunmen had yet to cross paths.

Gov. Rogelio Llanos also said reports of a clash Wednesday night between government troops and the gunmen were "not correct."

"Up to this time, there has been no engagement," Llanos said.

The gunmen were last reported heading for Barangay Mana. Malita police chief Senior Insp. Noel Saniel said they were planning to escape through the seashore village.

In Manila, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said "local bandits," and not the notorious Abu Sayyaf, were behind the attack on the high-end resort on Samal Island, Davao del Sur.

He said the "pirates" were "operating on the open sea at the Davao Gulf and Samal areas."

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said extortion appeared to be the motive for the attack wherein two people were killed and three others were wounded.

"The initial report given me by the regional director of the (Philippine Na-

RESORT/ A20

UGTAS PALA SA BITAY ANG MGA PUGANTE!

Second FRONT PAGE

No death penalty for Atong, Yolly

By Rocky Nazareno and Cathy C. Yamsuan

BECAUSE they fled the country, Charlie "Atong" Ang and Yolanda Ricaforte could escape the death penalty even if they are convicted of plunder, unlike their former "boss" jailed President Joseph Estrada.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said the RP-US Extradition Treaty explicitly provides that the extradition of a fugitive would only be allowed if the requesting country promises not to impose the death penalty on the accused.

Ang and Ricaforte are charged along with Estrada in a plunder case filed by the government before the Sandiganbayan. They are accused of helping the ousted president divert tobacco tax payments from the province of Ilocos Sur to their own use.

They fled to America separately about the time last January that Estrada was driven from power by a popular revolt.

Plunder carries the death penalty in the Philippines.

Commitment

Ebdalin said that while the Revised Penal Code specifically provides for the death penalty for plunder, the court would have to recognize the provisions of the RP-US Extradition Treaty on the non-imposition of capital punishment.

"(The treaty) is a commitment," Ebdalin said, "(the non-imposition of the death penalty) is an assumed condition."

Ebdalin also brushed aside claims made by Ang and Ricaforte that they ''fear for their lives,'' should they be extradited to the Philippines.

"That's not a ground for refusing extradition," Ebdalin said.

No ground for asylum

Ebdalin also scoffed at claims made by the duo's American lawyer, Donald Etra, that they have legal ground to seek asylum in the US.

"Of course, they can seek asylum but they would have to prove that the crime they are charged with is part of a political persecution," he said.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said Ang and Ricaforte do not qualify for political asylum because they are facing criminal charges here.

The two even risk deportation—a faster way to get them back to the Philippines—should US immigration authorities check their passports which have been canceled, Perez said.

Perez ruled out any chance the US government would grant the two asylum since they are accused in a plunder case.

"What they are facing is a criminal case, therefore, they cannot seek political asylum. The moment they apply for asylum, we will point out they will not be subjected to political persecution in this country," Perez said.

Political

Ang and Ricaforte claimed the plunder case filed against them is political in nature, given their association with the toppled Estrada.

Perez said the asylum request filed by Etra was only a delaying tactic meant to distract the US government from the real issue, which is the plunder case.

"At this point, they should be considered illegals in the US since their passports have been canceled. If they show up at any immigration office there, they should be arrested and turned over to Philippine authorities," Perez said.

Etra told the INQUIRER that Ang and Ricaforte still possess valid US visas, which is why they are eligible to stay in America despite their canceled passports.

COURT REPRIEVE

Mark Jimenez stalls extradition

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

A MANILA judge has granted Mark Jimenez a chance to contest the filing of an arrest warrant against him in connection with the US request for his extradition.

Jimenez, representative-elect of Manila's sixth district, filed an ex parte motion asking for a hearing, apparently to stall Department of Justice efforts to surrender him to United States authorities.

Manila Judge Guillermo G. Purganan set the hearing for June 5.

Wanted in US

Jimenez's motion stemmed from a petition for extradition and a request for a warrant of arrest made by the DOJ last week. Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said Jimenez's arrest would pave the way for his extradition.

Jimenez is wanted in the US for making illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party, tax evasion, mail fraud and conspiracy.

Justice Undersecretary Maria Merceditas Gutierrez said the hearing in Purganan's sala "will only decide if the charges against Jimenez are extraditable offenses, not whether he is guilty."

Gutierrez smiled and raised her eyebrows when asked during an interview if the government's efforts to extradite Jimenez meant it is not going to use him as a state witness against former president Joseph Estrada.

Jimenez had executed an affidavit detailing bank deposits he allegedly made to several of Estrada's accounts, including the notorious "Jose Velarde" account, which supposedly held billions of pesos in questionable funds.

Useless witness

Perez, in a separate interview, said Jimenez's affidavit failed to satisfy the Office of the Ombudsman, which built the plunder case against Estrada.

"The affidavit submitted by Jimenez was not used by the Ombudsman. Since no case was filed based on his affidavit, he won't be used as a witness against Estrada," Perez said.

Perez added that Jimenez had "been warned many times" about the quality of the information that he presented to the government against Estrada.

Perez said Jimenez's affidavit did not give any new information that would have helped pin the ousted president on plunder raps.

Perez said Jimenez's new status as a congressman-elect will not grant him immunity from extradition.

A former congressman himself, Perez said lawmakers "are immune from arrest only when going to and from sessions, (and for) crimes punishable by not more than six years in prison. Beyond that they have no immunity whatsoever."

"Unless Mark Jimenez gets a restraining order, it won't be long (before he is extradited)," Perez said.

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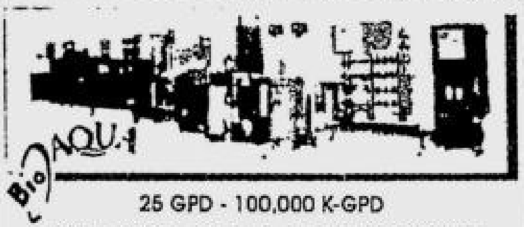

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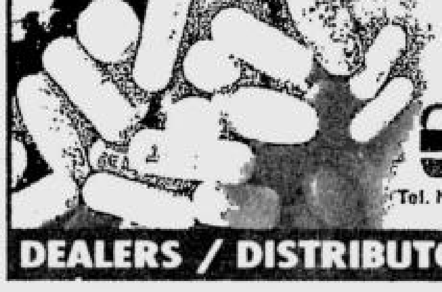

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ECUADOR THAILAND GUATEMALA ARGENTINA CHINA INDIA

Gloria faces growing protest over power bill

ONE by one, President Macapagal-Arroyo is losing the support of many sectors.

A day after left-wing groups threatened to cut ties with her administration for the allegedly special treatment she is giving to jailed President Joseph Estrada, another group made the same threat, this time over her alleged attempt to railroad the passage of the "highly-flawed" Omnibus Power Bill.

The rural-based Bantay Kuryente Laban sa Monopolyo and the National Federation of Electric Consumers (NFEC) urged the President to heed the voice of the people by rejecting what they called "a highly-defective measure."

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, a member of the bicameral conference committee tackling the bill, is also opposing the measure, saying it would institutionalize and legalize the overcharging and other abuses that Meralco is imposing on its consumers.

Ms Macapagal had called Congress to a four-day special session starting Monday to pass the controversial power bill and another measure granting additional budget for the government.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel had given assurance that the Senate would be able to hold the special session, saying at least 16 senators have committed to attend the session.

'Blackmail'

Pimentel said he was likewise confident that the power bill would be approved.

Meanwhile, militants yesterday described as "blackmail" the threat of Energy Secretary Jose Camacho that the country would suffer massive blackouts in the next four years if the power bill is not passed.

In a statement, Rep. Rene Magtubo, chair of the Partido ng Mangagawa, said Camacho's pronouncement was intended "to scare the people into supporting the onerous power bill."

Magtubo expressed fears that the power bill would be railroaded in Congress in the wake of reports that Malacañang had invited lawmakers to a dinner at the Ceremonial Hall of the Palace on Sunday.

"We are certain that the main course of the dinner would be the Omnibus Power Bill, a recycled dish out of the stale old version," Magtubo said.

The anti-monopoly group and the NFEC, in a press statement, said Ms Macapagal should let the incoming Congress pass the bill after a thorough study and review of the controversial provisions that are being objected to by the civil society and other aggrieved sectors.

"What is wrong with waiting for a few more months for the new Congress to restudy the controversial provisions of the bill and let it pass without incurring the people's wrath?" the statement said.

Railroaded

The groups said the bill was railroaded by a pro-rich, pro-monopoly Senate committee headed by Sen. John Osmeña, who "masterminded the passage of the bill in collaboration with influential interest groups in the power sector."

They warned that the fragile Macapagal administration would lose tremendous mass support if it insists on passing the measure.

"Why rush into passing a highly-controversial bill that would rupture the core of the administration's mass-base support when it could very well ask the next Congress—which has a fresh mandate of the people—to re-study and re-evaluate the contentious provisions?" the statement said.

Citing what they called "the anomalous, unpatriotic tie-up between the passage of the measure and the release of multimillion-dollar loans from foreign lending institutions, the groups said that the Macapagal administration would suffer dire consequences if it insists in passing the bill as it is.

"Instead of de-monopolizing the power industry sector, the bill would result in the death of small time power producers and distributors. Where is the merit in liberating the cash-strapped Napocor from its sorry state, if the people would suffer?" the statement said.

The groups said they would join protest actions against the measure. *With reports from Andrea Trininad-Echavez, Ma. Lydia P. Almiñana and Christine Avedaño*

Times workers gripe as 'MJ' celebrates win

EMPLOYEES of the Manila Times are set to troop to the Department of Labor and Employment today to complain about their delayed salaries and the non-remittance of their Social Security System premiums.

Manny Marinay, deskperson at the Times, told the INQUIRER that the employees and staff of the newspaper will go to the DOLE office in Intramuros together with their lawyers to try and resolve the problem.

"We urge DOLE to investigate the labor practices of Times management under newly elected Manila congressman Mark Jimenez," Marinay said.

He said that because they were not being paid on time, some employees were forced to apply for SSS loans.

To their surprise, their applications were rejected because, apparently, Strategic Publishing Corp., the company that publishes the Times, did not remit their premiums to the SSS, he said.

Marinay said employee morale at the Times is low because of the delayed salaries. The newspaper's issue yesterday, he pointed out, did not have its lifestyle and international news sections because supplies are running low.

Yesterday's issue, however, did feature a front-page editorial heralding Jimenez's congressional victory in Manila's sixth district.

In a statement faxed to media outlets, the employees demanded "the immediate payment of our delayed salaries for the period (of) May 1 to 15."

"We likewise demand the immediate release of compensation due our correspondents, both from the provinces and Metro Manila, as well as reimbursement of their legitimate expenses related to reportage," the statement said.

The INQUIRER tried to get the side of management but was informed that Jimenez's son, Marcel Crespo, vice president of the company, and other officials have not been around since the elections. *Alcuin Papa*

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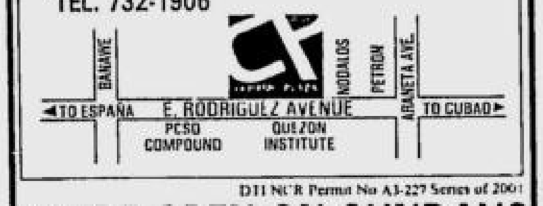

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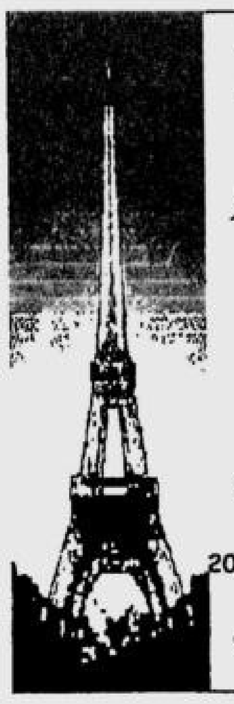

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Group presses Bush for RP vet's benefits

LOS ANGELES—A group is calling on President George W. Bush to grant Filipinos who fought in World War II the same rights and benefits US veterans receive. An estimated 14,000 Filipino veterans of the war are living in the United States, and "a good percentage of those . . . are financially destitute," said Cesar Patulot, chair of the Filipino International Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

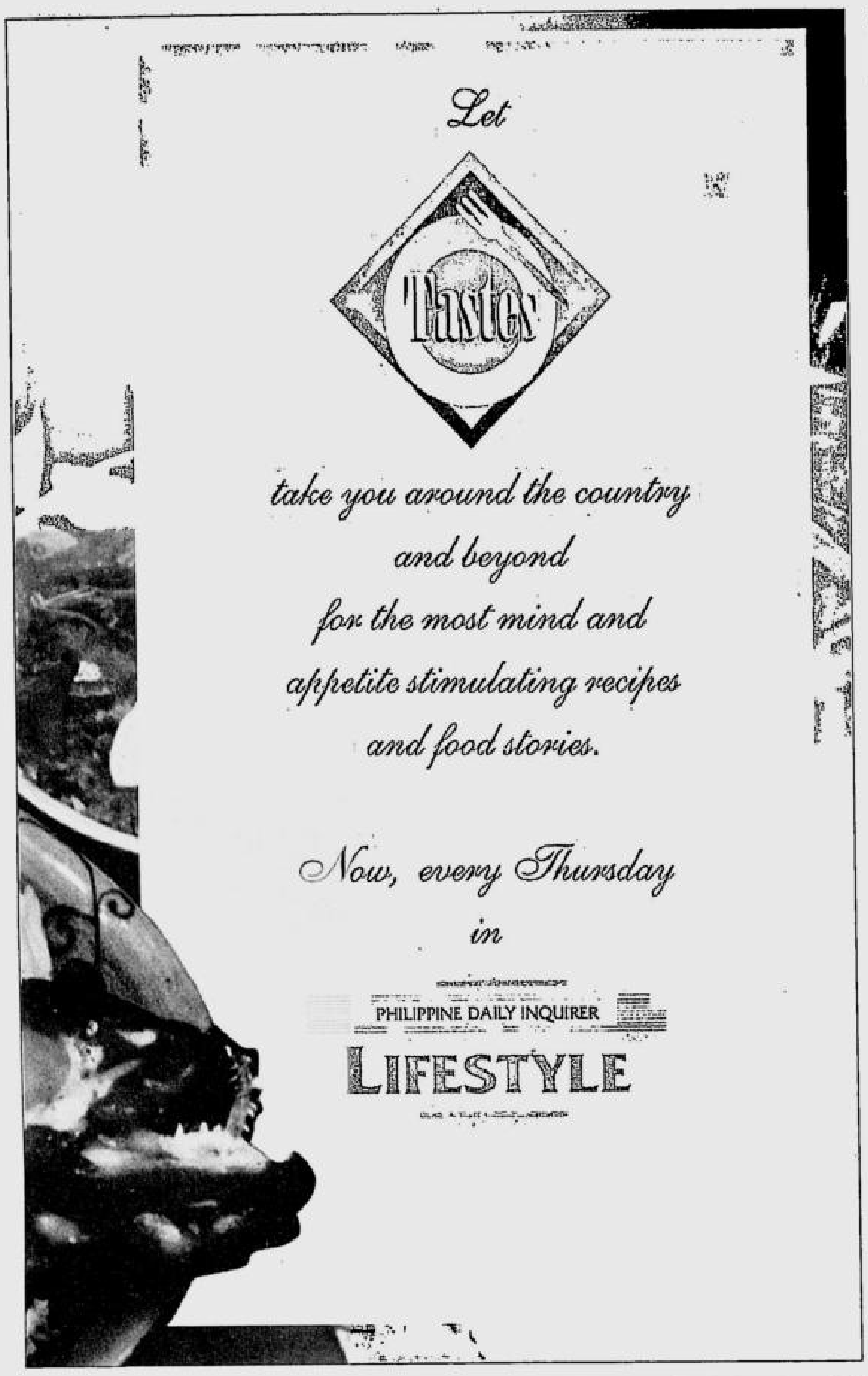
The Philippines was a US territory when Japan attacked it in 1941. About 400,000 Filipinos served in the war, but those veterans became the responsibility of the Philippines when it gained independence after the war.

Filipino veterans living in the United States didn't gain citizenship until 1990. In 1999, President Clinton signed laws giving them limited benefits, including burial benefits and cash for veterans who wanted to return to their homeland.

Patulot said Filipino veterans deserve full military benefits.

"Why recognize them incrementally?" he said. "They are either veterans or they are not . . . There's no such thing as a 50-percent veteran."

Patulot said the legal defense fund and other groups will present a petition to Bush asking him to support a bill pending in the House of Representatives that would give Filipino veterans full benefits. *AP*



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Erap, Payumo face charges for SBMA deal

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

FORMER President Joseph Estrada is again facing an investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly favoring a high school classmate in "offsetting" the payment for a land he leased from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

The "offsetting" deal also allegedly benefited SBMA chair Felicito Payumo, who allegedly acquired an P8-million bullet-proof Chevrolet Suburban by lobbying for the alleged highly-anomalous transaction.

The graft complaint was filed by Edwin Piano, a resident of Olongapo City and a former SBMA employee.

Piano lodged the complaint as early as Nov. 29, when Estrada was still the President.

For mysterious reasons, the case was kept away from the media's prying eyes.

Records obtained by the INQUIRER showed that on Jan. 11, Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Jesus Guerrero, through Director Emilo Gonzalez, ordered a formal investigation of the case.

Gonzalez ordered Payumo and Antonio Lopa, Estrada's classmate and president of the Asian Armored Vehicles Technologies Corporation, to answer the charges.

Estrada was not asked to submit a reply or controverting evidence since he was not formally named as respondent.

But the Ombudsman is sill investigating Estrada's possible liability since it was he who approved the deal on Feb. 3, 1999.

In a two-page complaint-affidavit, Piano said it all started when Lopa decided to invest in the SBMA by putting up his company, which manufactures armored personnel carrier for the military.

But the SBMA noticed that Lopa had failed to pay its lease to the government for the last five years.

Piano said the unpaid lease rent already amounted to $ 533,498.47 (about P21 million).

"In order to avoid paying the rent, Payumo made it appear that Asian Armor offered two armored personnel carriers to the SBMA in settlement of the obligation," Piano said.

Estrada, approved the "offsetting" scheme.

But, Lopa allegedly did not keep his promise.

"Instead of receiving two armored personnel carriers, the SBMA received only one bullet-proof Chevrolet Suburban with plate number SER-268," he said.

Piano claimed the bullet-proof luxury car was promptly assigned to Payumo. "No other vehicle was received by the SBMA from Asian Armor and the other vehicle cannot be found in the free port," he added.

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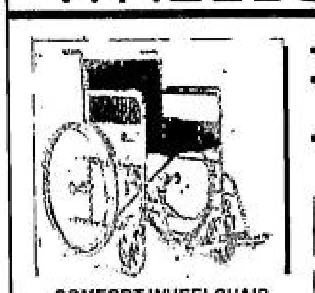

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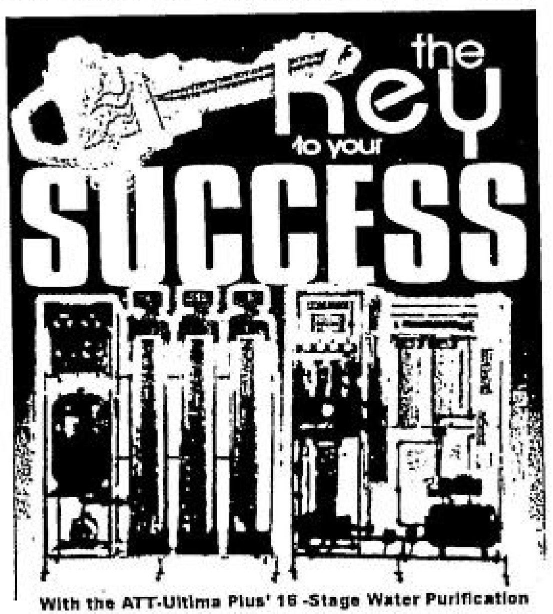

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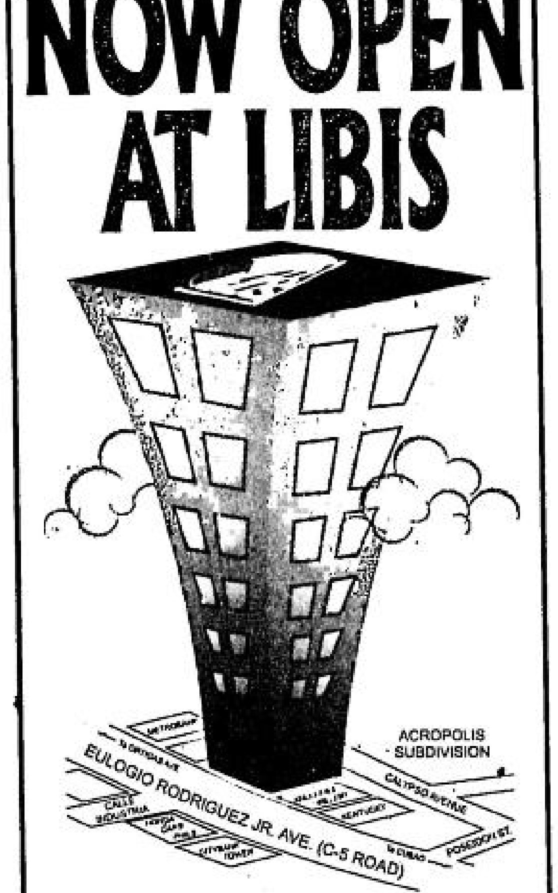

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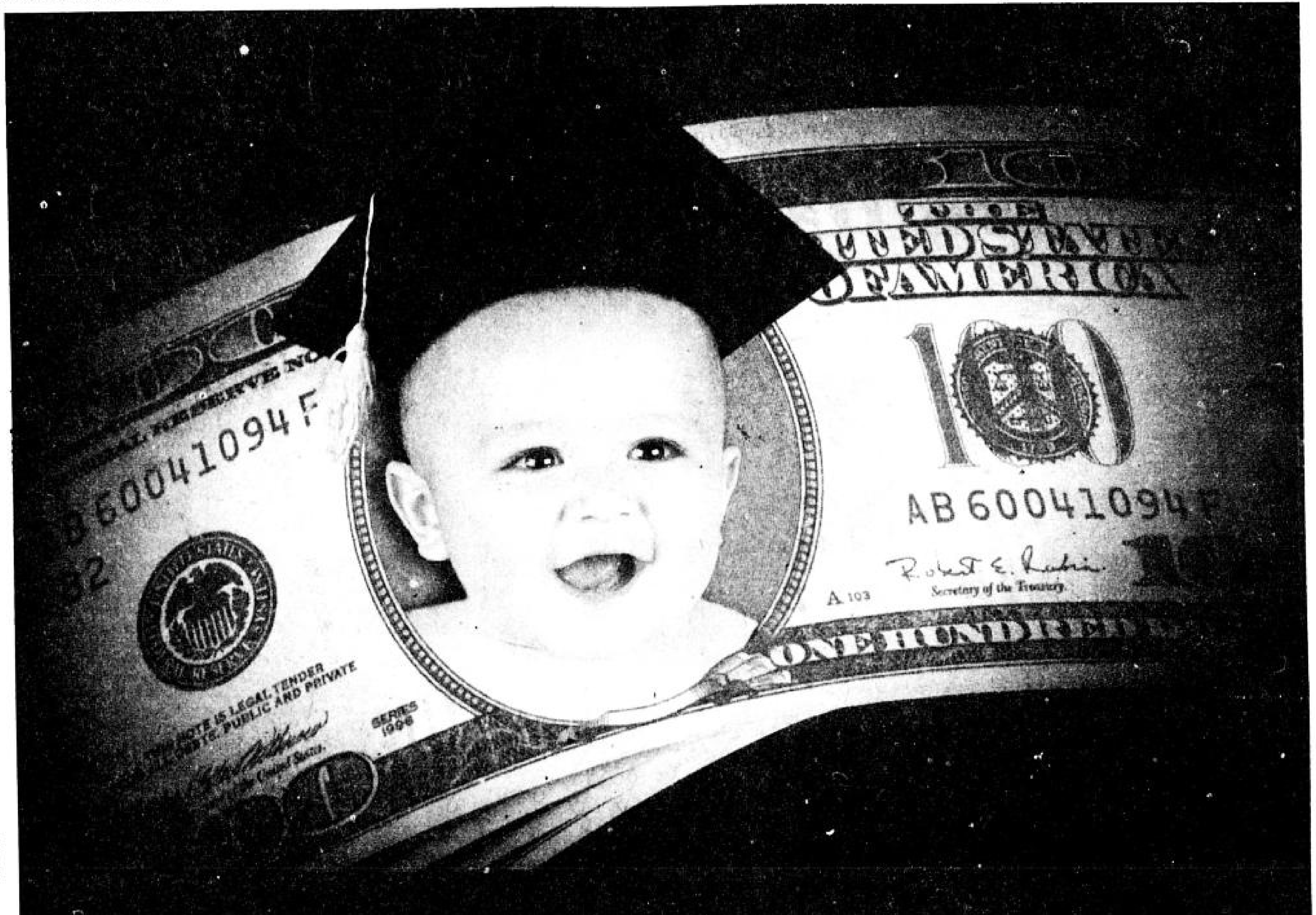

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Daza says LP may have paid poll officials

(From page A1)

"Granting without admitting that the LP gave money to these BEIs, it does not mean that we in the LP ordered them to cheat the PPC candidates," Daza said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER in Catarman.

"We have no intention to cheat them," he repeatedly said.

In an interview with the INQUIRER in Manila, Daza admitted that he and Northern Samar Representative-elect Romualdo Vicencio (2nd district) shelled out millions of pesos to their local candidates.

He claimed that he was not aware if the local LP candidates used the money to pay off the teachers who rendered poll duty. If the teachers did receive money from them, he said, this did not mean that they were paid to cheat for the opposition candidates.

But Daza did not discount the possibility that part of the money ended up with the teachers.

Asked if the local candidates had paid off the teachers, he said: "I don't know. That's up to them. They took care of disposing the money.

"But we never gave any money to the BEIs, that's for sure. We never gave any money to the mayor(al candidates) to give to the BEIs, that's for sure."

He also said that "if you are a member of the BEI, (and) if I give you money in addition to your stipend so 'we can get better services,' these words do not mean they're asking you to cheat."

Daza interpreted the reelected mayor's words to mean that local LP candidates had asked the teachers to "secure" the votes of local and national opposition bets against attempts at cheating.

"We didn't ask anyone to cheat for us, but of course we did not want to be cheated because we are the opposition," he said.

'Securing' votes

Daza, a former Northern Samar congressman, was part of the defense team at the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada, who is titular head of the PnM.

On Tuesday, a mayor-elect who ran under the LP told the INQUIRER that the party provided funds to pay members of the BEI to "secure" the votes of LP and PnM senatorial candidates.

The source said the money given to the BEIs in Northern Samar on May 14 was bigger than the P900 per diem allotted to them by the Commission on Elections.

Five other LP mayors-elect have also confirmed to the INQUIRER, on condition of anonymity, that they paid the BEIs for "services" in the elections.

But they refused to give details on how the money changed hands.

Daza challenged the camp of Emil Ong, PPC coordinator in Eastern Visayas, who had accused him of masterminding the poll fraud in the province, to file formal charges against him.

He maintained that the last election in Northern Samar was "clean and honest."

LP candidates won the gubernatorial and the two congressional seats in the province. Daza won over incumbent Gov. Madeleine Ong (PPC-Lakas); incumbent Representative Vicencio over Jose Ong, the governor's brother-in-law; and incumbent Rep. Harlin Abayon (1st district) over Theodoro Jumamil.

PnM candidates also took all 13 senatorial seats.

Madeleine and Jose Ong have asked the Comelec to nullify the election in Northern Samar.

Daza denied Emil Ong's claim that PPC senatorial candidates lost in the province because of cheating.

He pointed out that in the Ongs' hometown of Laoang, the PPC's local candidates won heavily as expected. Still, the PnM won over the PPC—7-6—in the senatorial race.

Daza said the results in Laoang mirrored the province-wide result of 8-5 in favor of the PnM.

"Does this mean that the PPC was also cheated there (in the Ongs' bailiwick)? The fact is they junked the PPC and just concentrated on themselves," Daza said.

Witnesses

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER in Manila, Emil Ong said the PPC now had a mayoral candidate, a vice mayoral candidate and five other witnesses to testify on the alleged election rigging in Northern Samar.

Ong said their testimony would greatly boost the documentary evidence—mostly election returns bearing similar handwriting—and the video footage of the alleged rigging at the San Isidro Sangguniang Bayan session hall on May 17.

"We will take legal action to disqualify all the (winning) candidates," Ong said.

He said the PPC would submit the election returns and the video footage to the Department of Justice today.

"We are also bringing the witnesses with us," he said.

Ong said the DOJ would determine the appropriate action to take and the proper agencies before which the PPC could file its complaint.

He said the involved parties would likely be charged with "conspiracy to commit electoral fraud through falsification of public documents."

Ong said the PPC's witnesses included Merlo Tan, a defeated mayoral candidate in San Isidro town, and vice-mayoral candidate Dr. Victor Montecalvo, from whose house the video footage was taken.

The others are Rexie Amor, who took the footage, and Lou Tan, Dennis Ortega and Johnny Tan.

Merlo Tan has asked the DOJ to facilitate the assignment of security escorts to members of his family who were allegedly being harassed by armed men in Northern Samar.

"We are now marked men in our place," Tan said from an undisclosed place in Manila.

Ong said the PPC was still waiting for three more witnesses who were caught on camera supposedly tampering with election returns. *With a report from Armand N. Nocum*

Joker cases Senate joint

(From page A1)

Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo has called up Senate secretary Lutgardo Barbo to inquire about Senate committees.

And reelectionist Sen. Sergio Osmeña III is looking for more room space at the Senate building.

Arroyo and Osmeña are consistently in the winning circle in the tallies of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) and the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and are sure to win Senate seats.

Two senators, however, have started vacating their offices in the Senate.

Former Sen. Raul Roco, who is currently the education secretary, moved out of his office on Tuesday while Sen. John Osmeña started moving into his room yesterday.

Also yesterday, the staff of Sen. Anna Dominique "Nikki" Coseteng started to move some of her things out of her office.

Coseteng, whose term as senator will end next month, ran for Quezon City representative in the lower house. She lost.

In an interview, Barbo said Arroyo called him up yesterday to inquire about Senate committees and their functions.

Asked if Arroyo showed interest about any particular committee, Barbo said no.

Barbo also said Sen. Sergio Osmeña III had inquired about the availability of one of the two rooms currently occupied by Sen. Juan Flavier on the fifth floor. The room is Flavier's legislative office.

Flavier, like Arroyo and Osmeña III, is likely to win a Senate seat.

Osmeña III's apparent interest in Flavier's Room 521-A may lie in the fact that it is next door to his Room 520.

His cousin, John Osmeña, had earlier written Barbo to request for Roco's room.

Barbo said it was up to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. to decide whether to grant the request of the Osmeña cousins. He said his office only handled the preparations for room assignments.

Staff members of Osmeña, however, have started to move into Roco's Room 509, saying that Pimentel and their boss already had a "verbal agreement" on this.

Observing the activity at Osmeña's new office, a Senate employee jokingly commented that Osmeña was apparently making sure that he would still have an office even if he was to lose the chairmanship of the Senate finance committee.

Osmeña currently occupies two rooms on the second floor.

But Barbo said there was "no specific rule that if you're the chairman of the finance committee, you've got to be on the second floor."

He downplayed Osmeña's moving into a room on the fifth floor: "There's no big deal about it."

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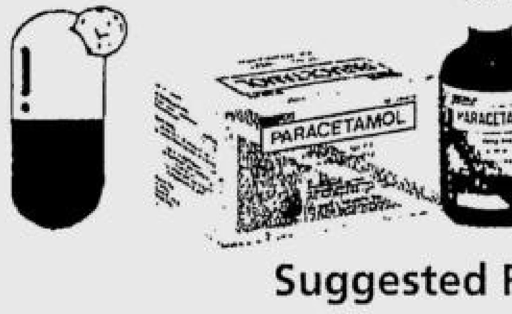

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	3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Product Launching: Butter By: Actron Industries Inc.
May 26 (Saturday)	10:00 AM - 12:00 NN	U.S. Potato Board (Function Rm. C)
	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Product Launching: New Generation Bread Improver By. Puratos Phils.
	1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	"The Relation Between Gas Production & Gas Retention" By: Adsia Eurobakers
	3:30 PM - 5:30 PM	"Great Icings on the Cake" By: Heny Sison (Phil. Dairy Products Corp.)
May 27 (Sunday)	10:30 AM - 2:00 PM	"Chinese Pastries & Delicacies" By: China Baking School
	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	"Synergy Enzymes of Bakery Products for Bread, Biscuits and Noodles" By: Bakeline Enterprises
May 25 - 27	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	"Introduction of New Premix Lines" (Edward Keller Phils. Inc. Booth) "Application of Industrial Chocolate Products" (Edward Keller Phils. Inc. Booth) "East Meets West" (Goodman Fielder Booth)
May 27		Plant Tour Hosts: Phil. Foremost Milling Corp. and other Bakeries
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	12:00 NN	Arrival at Phil. Trade Training Center (PTTC)

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Gloria under fire over oil price hikes

(From page A1)

the world market.

Bayan, which was among the groups that supported People Power II that installed Ms Macapagal into office, said the President was faced with a "test of will" if she could stand up for the interest of the people.

Any increase in the price of oil would further alienate the President from the poor, according to the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP).

"Ordering a price rollback will give some credence to her pronouncement that the major battle of her administration is the fight against poverty," NCCP general secretary Sharon Rose Duremdes said in a statement.

Duremdes said the oil price increase would lead to similar increases in the prices of basic commodities and services, and add to the suffering of the common folk.

Trade Secretary Mar Roxas said the oil price increase would have an impact on the prices of basic consumer goods. But Roxas said the impact would be minimal.

As for commuters, they need not worry about fare increases, at least for the moment.

Dante Lantin, chair of the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board, said that major transport groups had assured him that they would not seek fare increases despite the fuel price increases.

On Wednesday, Caltex and Petron raised the prices of diesel and gasoline by 45 to 49 centavos per liter.

It was the first increase for both Pilipinas Shell and Petron this year, since raising their prices by P1.15 per liter in October. Caltex's last major increase was in September when it raised prices by 1.20 per liter.

The three firms rolled back their prices by 50 centavos in January.

Caltex has said that their increase was in response to the rise in imported gasoline and diesel prices and the depreciation of the Philippine peso against the dollar from 48.37 at the end of March to 51.34 at the end of April.

The company said that based on the Mean of Platts Singapore published quotes, the price of unleaded gasoline had risen to $35.60 per barrel as of the end of April from $28.28 in end-March.

The price of diesel also increased to $30.65 per barrel from $27.40.

The price of Dubai crude, the benchmark used by local oil refiners, moved up to $24.84 per barrel at the end of April from $22.82 at the end of March. It was quoted at $26.50 per barrel as of May 21, it added. *Reports from Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; Norman Bordadora and Abigail L. Ho*

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Suggested retail prices of Petron and Shell in Metro Manila, while the Caltex prices came from dealers.

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XCS Plus	18.64	18.15
Unleaded Premium	18.00	17.51
Diesel	14.25	13.80
Kerosene	13.71	13.29

CALTEX

Product	New	Previous
Vortex Gold (premium unleaded)	18.64	18.15
Vortex silver	18.08	17.59
Diesel	14.29	13.85
kerosene	13.87	13.43

PILIPINAS SHELL

Product	New	Previous
regular kerosene	13.78	13.35
diesel	14.21	13.77
regular unleaded	17.03	16.66
premium gasoline	18.36	17.88
unleaded	17.95	17.47

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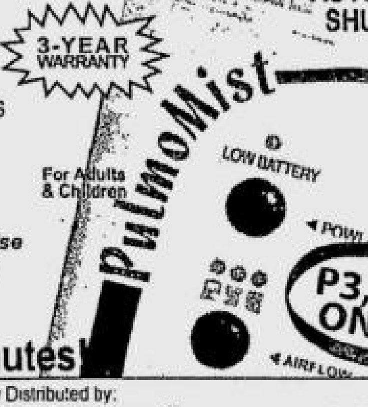
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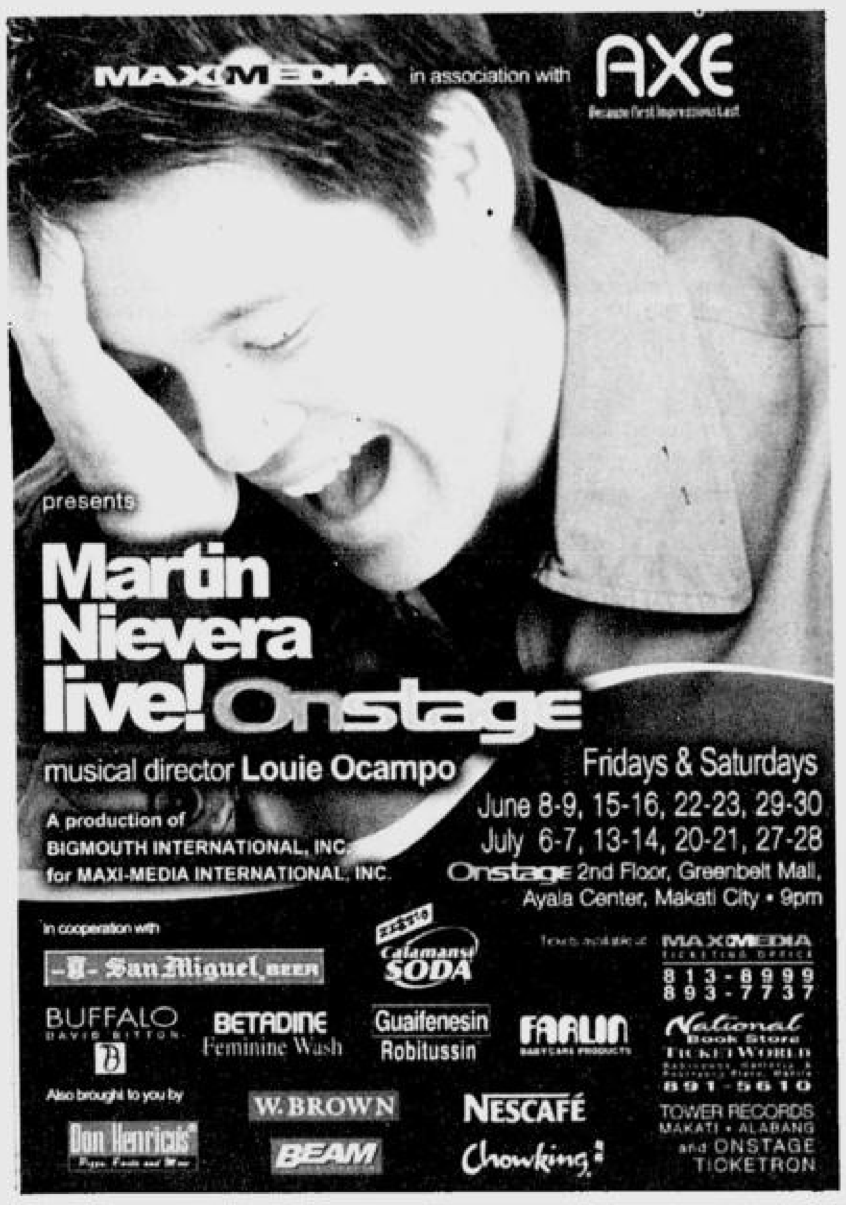
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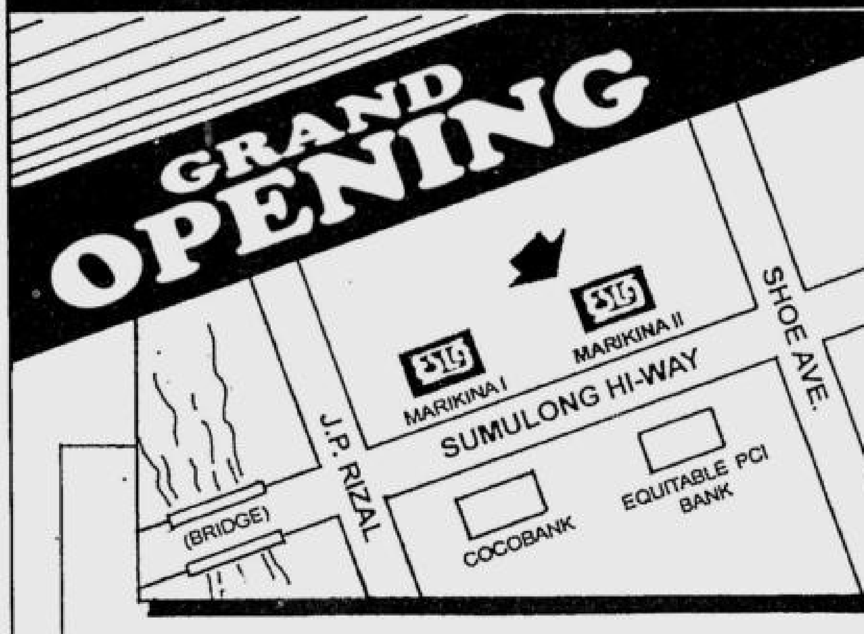

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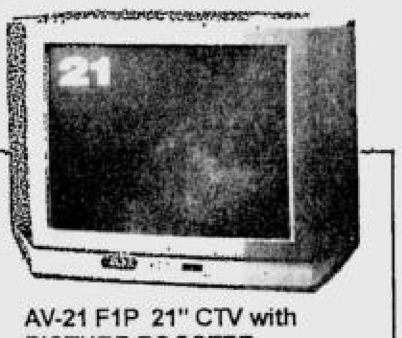
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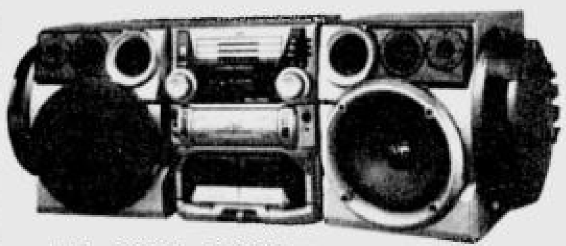
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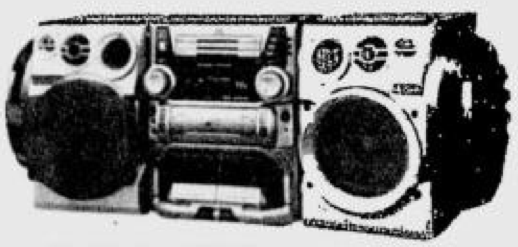
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OPINION

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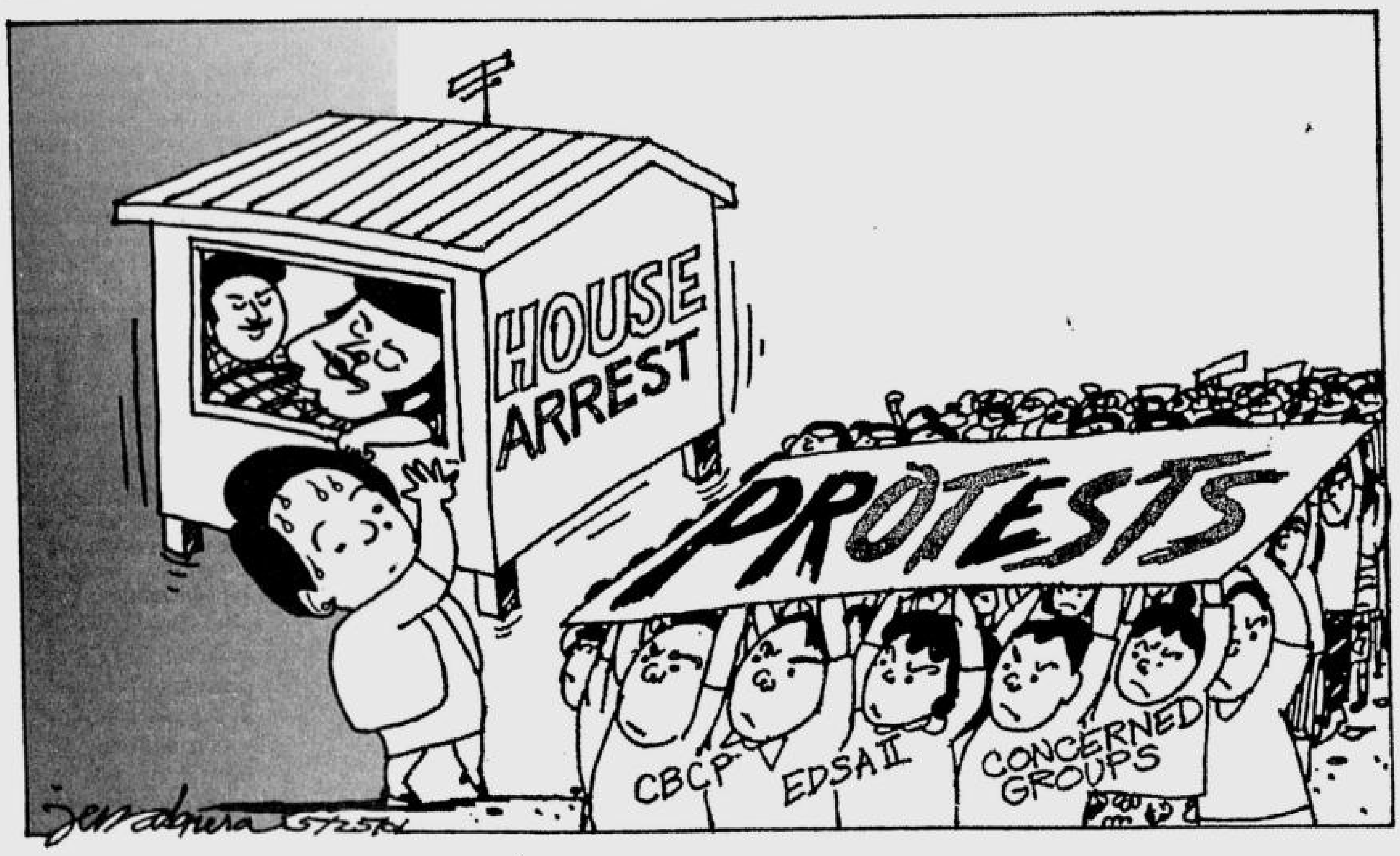

EDITORIALS

Televise it

THE TRIAL of deposed President Joseph Estrada, on the capital charge of plunder, may finally get under way next month. One crucial decision still hangs in the balance—quite literally.

The justices of the Sandiganbayan, the anti-graft court that will hear the case, are reported as evenly split on the question of televising the trial. As with many other matters judicial, they have left it up to the Supreme Court to decide.

Should the judiciary allow the unprecedented trial of a former chief of state and head of government to be televised?

Estrada's defense team says No. In their most recent filing before the Sandiganbayan, the former president's lawyers presented what is essentially an argument from commercialism. The anti-graft court should not allow the proceedings to be televised, they said, because this will only allow the country's broadcasting networks to generate more revenues out of a former public official's legal troubles.

Stripped to its core, this argument is actually based on an appeal to sympathy: Don't allow others to make capital out of someone else's predicament.

At first glance, and stated as baldly as that, there seems to be hardly anything to object to. But there is much more to this insidious argument than meets the eye.

For many television networks, news operations are cost centers. If profits alone were the measure of performance, broadcast media are better off with formulaic melodramas or imported programming. As was evident during the impeachment trial, however, when more lucrative programs were bumped off to make way for the televised proceedings, a network's commitment to delivering the news is not always driven by money considerations.

Even if. . .

BUT—and here's the main point—even if it does make money from its news programming, a network does not need to apologize for it. In this day and age, the surest guarantee of a free press is a steady revenue stream. A "sufficiently prosperous" press, to borrow a phrase from the French philosopher, sociologist and journalist Raymond Aron, will allow a newspaper or a radio station or a TV network to be truly independent of both the government *and* its advertisers.

This issue was already raised two years ago, when film producers and distributors close to Estrada waged a Malacañang-inspired advertising boycott of the INQUIRER. Contrary to the pronouncements emanating from the Estrada administration belittling the significance of the boycott, the move was nothing less than an assault on press freedom. It was, in fact, a strike at the jugular, an initial attack on one newspaper's very ability to deliver the news.

Thus, the most recent argument offered by Estrada's lawyers to disallow the presence of TV cameras in his trial is based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the role that media outlets today play in our constitutional democracy. It should be thrown out of court.

How about the argument from uncertainty?

Last January, startled by his discovery of an unfamiliar microphone at the impeachment trial, Sen. John Osmeña took to the floor and lamented the Senate's decision to televise the proceedings. He repeated this observation a number of times, arguing that the presence of the cameras encouraged the senators and other participants in the trial to grandstand, to play to the gallery.

He was right, of course. The introduction of TV and radio equipment into the impeachment proceedings, rather like a quasi-legal application of physics' famous uncertainty principle, changed the complexion of the trial. But Osmeña was wrong in thinking it a bad thing.

Of all the fateful decisions the senator-judges made in the impeachment saga, the most crucial was the decision to accommodate the media in the Senate hall. In one fell swoop, the senator-judges transformed the country's first-ever impeachment court into one enormous classroom for civics education. Some members of the court may have chafed at the new constraints imposed by the presence of the cameras; no matter. The net result was overwhelmingly positive. Riveted by the telenovela appearing on their screens or unfolding on their radios, Filipinos of all walks of life learned indelible lessons in both governance and citizenship.

The same opportunity presents itself in Estrada's plunder case. Let us seize it.

Erap lawyers want dismissed case reinstated

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THIS one's for "Ripley's Believe It or Not." It can happen only in the topsy-turvy world that is the Philippines, which has too many lawyers.

The Sandiganbayan has dismissed, on petition of the prosecution, a graft charge against deposed President Joseph Estrada. But the defense panel has filed a motion for reconsideration to have the charge reinstated. Bizarre, *'di ba*?

It is the job of a defense lawyer to have the case against his client dropped or dismissed. But here is a case against Erap already dismissed by the court but his lawyers, instead of rejoicing, asked the court to revive it. What's going on here?

Erap was charged by the Ombudsman with graft for ordering the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System to invest in Belle Corp., the controversial gambling firm of his dear friend Dante Tan. The SSS bought shares worth P745 million, partly because of which it suffered liquidity problems (it ran out of cash) and allegedly had to borrow P7.4 billion to be able to pay the benefits due its members. Erap pocketed P189 million in sales commission. The GSIS invested a little less and Erap likewise got a commission.

Because the Ombudsman—which has filed a number of cases against Erap—wanted to concentrate on the plunder case—which is enough to have him executed or imprisoned for life--he moved for the dropping of the graft case. Which the Sandiganbayan did.

When a court dismisses charges before the accused is arraigned, those charges can be refiled later. But if they are dismissed after arraignment, they cannot be refiled anymore. Double jeopardy will apply.

This is probably the intent of Erap's lawyers. They want the case reinstated so that Erap can be arraigned and, if it is dismissed again, Erap cannot be charged again for the same offense.

Why are they afraid of the case being refiled in the future? Probably because they know their client is guilty. If the evidence is weak, they shouldn't worry even if it is refiled 10 times. The case will never prosper. So the evidence must be strong.

Besides, once a case is ended, the payments to the lawyers also end. But while a case is still in court, the lawyer's fees keep coming. That is why court cases last for years and years, the more years, the better.

There is the joke about a young lawyer who boasted to his father, a veteran lawyer, that he finished his first case in a matter of months.

"But your cases, Dad, always take a long time," the young lawyer said. "I remember a very easy case which nevertheless took you several years to finish."

"Son," said the father, "that was the case that paid for your law school."

But back to the motion for reconsideration by Erap's defense lawyers. I think it is dead in the water. How can the Sandiganbayan reinstate the case if the Ombudsman says, "Your honors, we are not ready to prosecute the case."

So the case will have to stay dismissed. Until it is refiled later.

* * *

While we're still on the subject of the Sandiganbayan, I'm curious to know why the trial of the plunder case against Erap will be held every day but similar cases against the Marcoses are hardly moving in the Sandiganbayan at all. It has been 15 years, but the Marcos cases are gathering dust in the Sandiganbayan. For which reason the Marcoses, especially Imelda, are still flying high, which is an insult to the Filipinos. Will the Marcoses ever be punished for their crimes against the people? Or will they go scot-free, laughing all the way to their Swiss banks? Only Sandiganbayan Chief Justice Francis Garchitorena can tell.

A Sandiganbayan associate justice told me that the Marcos cases are spread among three divisions of the Sandiganbayan but most of it are with Garchitorena's division. These cases are moving the slowest. Why?

It may be recalled that the Sandiganbayan was created specifically to try graft cases against government personnel. The purpose was to hasten the prosecution of graft cases because the regular trial courts, burdened by clogged dockets, are very slow. It was believed that the Sandiganbayan will try graft cases faster to instill fear in the hearts of government personnel. "Avoid graft, or else the Ombudsman and the Sandiganbayan will get you," was supposed to make public officials tread the straight and narrow.

But instead of instilling fear, the Sandiganbayan has encouraged government wrongdoers. The message of past wrongdoers haled before the Sandiganbayan seems to be: "Steal as much as you can, as fast as you can. Even if you are caught, it will take many years for your trial to be finished. Meanwhile, you are out on bail, free to enjoy your loot. Before your trial can be finished, witnesses against you may be dead, threatened or bought. You can share your loot with the prosecutors and the judges and you will still have plenty left."

The Marcos and Erap kleptocracies thrived after the Sandiganbayan and Ombudsman were established. What does that say about these two anti-graft bodies?

* * *

Something strange is going on in the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board. After the flap over "Live Show," all the censors resigned, all of which were accepted by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. One of them was a cousin-in-law of Ms Macapagal.

Lately, this cousin has intimated that she is going back to the MTRCB and somebody from the Presidential Management Staff has been calling the MTRCB office asking for the return of Malacañang's acceptance of this cousin's resignation.

Is this with the knowledge and approval of the President? Or is the cousin and PMS trying to pull a fast one? Will the President please say something?

Driving Ms President

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

THE NEWS that the President's car was "dead on arrival" and couldn't be revived at the St. Luke's Hospital where she was paying an old friend a visit was not surprising. The vehicle, although a Mercedes, is old and needs replacing. Presidential vehicles have had a penchant for giving up the ghost in recent years as presidents, wary of media criticism, have repeatedly deferred necessary vehicular capital expenditure or have had to resort to subterfuge to get what they needed.

Two years ago, a presidential limousine assigned to the visiting president of Turkey stopped dead in its tracks, to the horror of his security entourage and the embarrassment of his hosts. As the Turkish head of state faced insurgency problems at home, this was a serious security lapse indeed.

It is obvious that any Philippine president, despite or even because of our genuine domestic problems, requires an adequate number of appropriate vehicles to do his or her job. Unless we intend to have the President barricade herself inside Malacañang, she needs to move around. Domestic security threats ranging from insurgents to nut cases fully justify that the President travel around in a bullet-proofed car.

Even assuming that there were no immediate need for the President to move around in such a security cocoon, Malacañang needs to have a fleet of perhaps at least four or so such vehicles at any one time. These vehicles are made to order and can require up to a year in advance to manufacture. Once the need manifested itself, there would be not enough time to obtain them. These vehicles need to be made available at a moment's notice.

Spares are required as back-up vehicles and also to service the needs of the stream of state visitors from all over the world who routinely visit the country. We are responsible for our guests' security while they are here. Only the American president has the wherewithal to bring his own armor-plated limo everywhere he goes. Everyone else expects us to provide their essential security needs.

Because of the sheer weight of the armor, only the heaviest luxury vehicles like Mercedes, Cadillac, or Lincoln have engines powerful enough to carry themselves around. And even these fine brands need replacement every six years or so because they are so heavy that the wear and tear is prodigious. Despite this cost, these vehicles constitute pragmatic economics. Asked by a reporter what was the cost of building the bullet- and bomb-proofed "Popemobiles" to shield the Pope from potential assassins during his visits around the world, one member of the Curia dryly replied that it is "much cheaper than a Papal funeral."

While there is a place for frugality and simplicity in Malacañang, compromising security doesn't include it any more than it does in the Vatican. The President and her state visitors require the level of security routinely provided heads of state. We ought to see that they get it. The national trauma that may be the result of misplaced frugality is not worth the savings on the President's vehicles or that of her security convoy. After all, what good is presidential security if the President's escorts can't keep up with her because their own vehicles are decrepit and keep breaking down?

Below the President's rank, there are very few national officers whose positions require high levels of protection. The Vice President does, certainly, although at a much reduced level. There are no real security threats as such to other senior national officers as the Senate president, speaker of the House, or the chief justice. Where intelligence reports suggest that there might be a period of increased risk to particular individuals, additional security or an armored vehicle can be temporarily loaned to them only for as long as the threat subsists.

Cabinet officials generally need no security and can usually move around in ordinary cars without an escort of any kind. Indeed, if it weren't for the parking problem, it would do the Cabinet members good to occasionally drive their own cars around alone or even to take taxis to work.

But there are at least three Cabinet members who, by nature of their jobs, require appropriate security and perhaps even armored vehicles: the secretaries of defense, justice and interior. The health secretary certainly doesn't. Nor do the economic planning, energy, or foreign secretaries. The executive secretary needs some security (perhaps one officer) but much less so than the three department heads aforementioned.

While we are at it, some Cabinet secretaries require four-wheel drive, all-weather vehicles. Social welfare, health, defense (as disaster relief chair), agriculture, environment and public works come to mind. The others can do nicely in their smaller sedans.

In brief, it is not status that determines security needs but logic and function: as they used to remind architecture students, form follows function. Where full security is required, it needs to be given even if at the added cost to the taxpayer of armored limousine service. Full-time security cordons need to be given to no more than a select few of the highest officials of our country.

For now, it would do no disservice whatsoever to the President's call for simple living if adequate and appropriate vehicles were purchased for the Malacañang fleet. A snap election by reason of a lapse of security will be a far more expensive and traumatic prospect than using our common sense.

Balance of power in the Senate

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE SENATORIAL election results are sending mixed signals. With 70 percent of the vote already tabulated, the 8-4-1 result in favor of the People Power Coalition has consolidated. At first glance, the result is a clear win for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on the basis of number of seats won.

But this perspective does not give us an idea of the new balance of power in the Senate. A more nuanced interpretation tells us that the gain of eight seats is only enough to give the administration party a plurality—11 seats—after it started from a low base of three holdover Lakas senators. The opposition, under the umbrella coalition LAMP, managed to increase its seats to 10 (four new senators plus six holdovers). Their number of seats is not enough to hold the Lakas hostage.

The three independents—Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., the partyless media newsreader Noli de Castro and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon—are free agents and can be expected to be swing men, not as a bloc but as individuals. I don't expect insurmountable problems for the President to build coalitions based on consensus on certain issues.

The results show that three of the PPC candidates who were voted among the first eight—Sen. Franklin Drilon, Rep. Joker Arroyo and former Speaker Manuel Villar—were key figures in the impeachment process and trial. The impeachment recall appears to be mainly responsible for being among the first 13, as well as being among the first seven. This does not however discount the fact that these three candidates also have creditable legislative records.

On the other hand, two of the most biased pro-Estrada senators in the impeachment trial—Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Defensor-Santiago—are below the 13th place. Also, Enrile and Santiago were the most rabid rabble-rousers at the Edsa rallies in which they incited the hordes to a frenzy of fury to attack Malacañang on May 1.Their exclusion from the winning column may well be an expression of the voters' disapproval of their extremism and trouble-fomenting behavior.

The vote for Luisa "Loi" Ejercito is clearly a sympathy vote for the deposed president. It may be reading too much meaning in it if we interpret it as a vote for the return of Estrada to the presidency. Panfilo Lacson and Sen. Gregorio Honasan figured in the May 1 rebellion but they were not stage performers like Enrile and Santiago. They were back-door operators. What then can be accounted for their vote? Probably, a polarized half of the electorate gave its vote to them. In the case of Lacson, plenty of money—he seems to have a deep campaign chest—helped to lift him.

Former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara comes as a surprise. Among the four Puwersa ng Masa candidates in the winning column, Angara has topped them, although by the latest count he is in ninth place. During the Edsa rallies, Angara stood out as a sore thumb against a swarm of rabble-rousers and demagogues. At the rally of April 29, he sounded a contrasting tone. He opposed the march to Malacañang. He was not booed but the crowd was indifferent to his message. It is as though they were saying, you don't belong here.

Angara's appeal did not rest on the D, E classes, although they could have voted for him as a candidate of the PnM. He also has appeal to the A, B, C classes and the image that he presents is one of political moderation and as a technocrat. Angara has never been an effective campaign speaker. But having been in many election campaigns, he may have left a strong perception as a man who can deliver results rather than as a rabble-rouser.

The LAMP coalition has, for all intents and purposes, dissolved in these elections. The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Angara's party, has become the lead opposition party. Angara has emerged as the de facto leader of the opposition. This should augur well for President Macapagal.

The record of Angara in the Senate speaks of an issue-oriented legislator more interested in legislative programs rather than a confrontational guerrilla fighter in the legislature. During the Ramos administration, Angara, as Senate president, cooperated with Speaker Jose de Venecia, to shepherd in Congress the reform legislative agenda of the president.

The exclusion of Enrile and Santiago from the Senate removes important sources of turbulence in the Senate. The President could form a consensus with Angara and the opposition senators on reform issues, minus the sniping from Enrile and Santiago.

* * *

Lawyers for former President Estrada could be undermining their petition to put their client on house arrest by backing it with the case of deposed Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic. Milosevic was never under house arrest. After he was ousted by the Yugoslav people power last October over stealing the election, he garrisoned himself inside a villa where the communist dictator Josip Broz Tito lived. From there, he continued to destabilize the government of President Vojislav Kostunica.

Milosevic, who plunged his country into the ruinous Balkan wars, had been charged with abuse of power and corruption. He had defied efforts to arrest him until last April when police commandos raided his heavily guarded house and arrested him. Milosevic's guards resisted the raid, forcing a 26-hour standoff with the police.

Negotiations ended the deadlock, but Milosevic was hauled off to Belgrade's gloomy central prison, and was locked up. He was not put under house arrest while facing trial.

Waste: Key to convincing world nuclear is clean

FEATURE

Duncan Shiels

LONDON—Nuclear power, for so long an energy pariah because of its deadly by-products, might be on the comeback trail because it doesn't contribute to global warming.

But non-CO2 emitting nuclear energy, given a vote of confidence by President George W. Bush last week, has little chance of being accepted as a genuinely clean, safe energy until its waste can be neutralized, analysts say.

The Bush administration said last Thursday that the United States could increase its use of nuclear power by doubling the number of reactors at many nuclear power plant sites.

The announcement was interpreted by the nuclear industry as a seal of approval which would improve its prospects of expanding not only in the United States but in developing countries.

"The Bush plan should have constructive reverberations around the world," said John Ritch, director general of the World Nuclear Association, formerly the Uranium Institute.

"People everywhere have a powerful vested interest in seeing countries like China and India meet their rapidly expanding energy needs without building a vast greenhouse gas-producing infrastructure."

The West's energy watchdog, the International Energy Agency (IEA) forecasts that global electricity demand will nearly double by 2020, with much of the new growth coming from developing economies such as China and India.

The two countries, which between them account for more than a third of the world's population, currently have only 17 reactors between them out of over 430 worldwide but are committed to a nuclear program as the only viable alternative to coal.

The nuclear industry, so long seen as a net polluter, has portrayed itself as the good guy during international efforts to tackle global warming through the Kyoto Protocol.

It has exploited the fact that atomic power plants release into the atmosphere almost no greenhouse gases, seen by many scientists as a contributor to global warming. Industrialized countries agreed in the Japanese city of Kyoto in 1997 to cut greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5.2 percent from 1990 levels by 2012, with a number of "flexible mechanisms" set out to allow them cheaper options than having to change deeply entrenched energy usage at home.

One of those is technology transfer, where developed nations help build and run clean energy projects in poorer countries under so-called clean development mechanisms (CDMs)

Environmentalists, supported by the European Union, have prevented the inclusion of nuclear energy along with renewables such as wind and solar power in CDMs by pointing to the long-term problems of nuclear waste.

The nuclear industry, with the backing of Japan and the United States—before it withdrew from the Kyoto process—argued that the Protocol states that the parties to CDMs must decide how best to implement them and that a zero-emitting solution like atomic power should be on the table.

"The nuclear industry has jumped on the Kyoto Protocol as their last savior," said Bridget Woodman, anti-nuclear campaigner at the environmentalist group, Greenpeace, in London.

"They are desperate for new orders and the issue of climate change presents them with their best arguments in terms of international politics "

Peter Beck, nuclear specialist at London's Royal Institute of International Affairs, is prepared to recognize that the nuclear industry now runs safe reactors but he describes waste disposal as the industry's "Achilles' heel" in trying to get nuclear energy accepted for inclusion in CDMs.

He says the scientific community is still divided on the effects of even low-level radioactivity.

"The answer to all this is we don't know...We need far more biological research on how cancers are formed," he said. "I would say we've got 20 years to do research before one can take really big decisions (on nuclear expansion)."

However, with so many plants already operating, efforts are under way to find a long-term solution to the waste storage problem.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development figures put the amount of spent nuclear fuel in storage in OECD countries—which accounted last year for 322 of a total 432 reactors worldwide—at 81,616 tons in 1999, half of which was held by the United States.

So as well as pushing for new plants, Bush last week recommended continued study of a deep underground repository for storing spent fuel in Yucca Mountain in the Nevada desert.

By 2010, all the country's used fuel rods from commercial reactors could be stored in the project at a cost of around $50 billion.

Sweden and Finland are pursuing their deep storage sites -the latter having gained parliamentary approval last Friday--while Germany's plans to use a 2,625 feet deep salt dome at Gorleben have been shelved under its nuclear phase-out plan

The OECD says there is a high level of confidence that geological deposits are technically safe but environmentalists maintain it is impossible to guarantee that such repositories will be secure from human intrusion, intentional or inadvertent, for the tens of thousands of years it takes for radioactive waste to decay.

This is especially true, they say, with Yucca Mountain, where water is so limited that future generations may unknowingly drill close to the repository in search of aquifers.

"What you are doing is very consciously creating a problem you know you are leaving to for future generations to deal with," says Woodman. "From a sustainability point of view it's wholly untenable and highly immoral."

Beck says the waste legacy would be vastly reduced if current research into "transmutation," whereby high level waste is bombarded with neutrons to reduce it to less harmful material, bears fruit.

"That type of research may well be necessary if nuclear is to really expand fast because I really can't see how high level waste can be produced at a rate that it means one Yucca Mountain type unit every two years," he said.

But such research is expensive and Benito Mueller, of the Oxford Institute for Energy Research, believes that after 50 years, nuclear has already sucked in enough funds, and investment should now be focused on renewables

"If the same amount of money had been spent on renewables I think we would have much more than what nuclear power generators can deliver right now," he said. "They've supplied electricity but with the risk factor in the form of nuclear waste which is still not solved.

"They've had their chance and I don't think ultimately they have delivered." *Reuters*

Was the attack on Pearl Harbor a surprise attack?

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

AFTER THE JAPANESE attack on Pearl Harbor in the early morning of Dec. 7, 1941, the number of casualties was placed at 2,403 dead and about 1,178 wounded. Of the above casualties, 1,177 perished on board the USS Arizona alone. There has been no other battleship in US naval history that has taken so many of her crew down with her. These tragic data were enough to turn me off as I planned my sightseeing around any museum, library, or shopping mall closest to my Honolulu hotel in April 1996. I changed my mind when I saw UP professor, Dr. Rico Jose and his wife Lydia, asking for directions to Pearl Harbor. I junked shopping confident that I would get the best historical commentary on the place from the leading authority on the Japanese period in the Philippines.

I knew nothing on the way to the island of Oahu and wondered why there was a sleek white memorial sitting serenely on the water in what I thought was the middle of nowhere. I watched the 23-minute documentary on the Pearl Harbor attack and boarded a US Navy launch to the memorial and realized that the structure actually straddles the ruins of the USS Arizona. When I stepped in the place, it dawned on me that the USS Arizona Memorial is more than your regular tourist spot, it is a place of death, a tomb that deserved respect and remembrance.

My hazy memories of that trip to the USS Arizona Memorial came flooding back as I watched the preview of the two-hour National Geographic documentary, "Pearl Harbor: Legacy of Attack," that will be shown in the Philippines on Sunday, May 27 at 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel. Recent underwater research reveals that there is a bit more to the Pearl Harbor story we do not know. Small details that can change the way we see and remember that tragic day.

We all know that it was a surprise attack by the Japanese air force. Was it really a surprise? The National Geographic documentary puts the spotlight on the little-known fact that the Japanese had five midget submarines in the Hawaiian waters. Their mission was to wait for the end of the air raid and finish off with their torpedoes any large ship left afloat. National Geographic explorer-in-residence Dr. Robert Ballard (who is better known as the man who found the Titanic), explores the Oahu waters anew in search of the remains of the two Japanese midget submarines that are unaccounted for to this day. The tale of the submarines is fascinating because very few know that one submarine was washed ashore on Dec. 8, 1941 with its disoriented skipper becoming America's first prisoner of war.

The Japanese midget submarines are the enduring what-if questions in the Pearl Harbor story. One of them, the I-24-TOU, was spotted by an officer on board the USS Condor at 3:42 a.m., roughly four hours before the actual attack. The submarine had problems with its navigational equipment and had to take bearings from the surface. Its periscope was sighted by the USS Condor that alerted the destroyer USS Ward which misunderstood the signal from the Condor and searched in the wrong place. Blame it on the lazy Hawaiian climate, ukulele music, or a sleepy officer on the USS Ward but no alarm went off when it should.

At 6:30 a.m., little over an hour before the bombs rained on Pearl Harbor, a periscope from the Japanese submarine is sighted again. This time the USS Ward pursues the enemy and fires twice at the submarine. By 6:51 a.m. William Outerbridge on the USS Ward reports that he fired on an unidentified submarine—he is not sure whether it was sunk or not—he repeats the report two minutes later. Again there was no alert. It is very odd that this piece of information did not work its way to the top of the chain of command. No matter how slow the message traveled it should have gotten somewhere but ended nowhere.

Then at 7 a.m. a massive number of aircraft was seen on a radar station on the northwest coast of Oahu. A message is sent to the mainland but the only officer present at that early hour was Lt. Kermit Tyler who was new to the job. Before the Board of Inquiry assembled after the attack, he related that:

"...I had very good reason to believe that there was a flight of B-17s en route to the islands from the mainland. I had a friend who was in the bomber command who told me that at anytime the radios were playing this Hawaiian music all night, I could be certain that a flight of our bombers was coming over, and when I had gotten up at 4 a.m. to report for duty, I listened to this music all the way to the station, so I was looking for a flight of B-17s."

Tyler thought the airplanes reported were US planes or at best a mistake in radar readings. He replied to the alert with, "thanks for calling in the report." Before he received a phone call on the attack Tyler was outside his office for fresh air. He said, "I saw the attack in progress, but at that time I thought it was the navy practicing dive bombing."

The irony of the story is that the Hawaiian music from the radio station guided the Japanese bombers to their target. Worse, three warnings preceded the attack. All went unheeded and the rest as they say, is history.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The law of the echo

HIGH BLOOD

Rosario Mendoza Cortes

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

FOR RETIREES there is not much to do but read the newspapers and watch talk shows or soap operas. We buy three broadsheets a day not for the news, for they report the same events but for the columnists whose views vary one from the other. Max Soliven, Amando Doronila, Conrado de Quiros, Teddy Locsin, Michael Tan, etc. enliven our day. The one riveting event these days is the ignominy that has befallen the 13th president of the country. The first dropout to gain the presidency, the first to be impeached, the first to be hauled into detention, what other firsts can be attributed to him? His picture on the front page of April 26, full of dejection, said it all. He was the 13th president of the country, and he had 13 letters in his name, but whether it was one or the other 13 that did him in, one cannot escape the conclusion that he only got his just desserts. His die-hard supporters however do not believe that. Like their idol, they assert that he was the victim of the elite's antagonism to him.

On his first day in Malacañang, a chandelier almost fell on him. That was a bad omen which he should have heeded. He may have heeded it by making sure he was safe from snipers or the like. But he failed to consider that his fall might come from acts of his own making. Unlike the poet who wrote, "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul," he failed to master his fate because his acts and his lifestyle had decided his fate.

The religious among us attribute to God the events that have saved our country from a ruinous leadership. It was Gov. Chavit Singson's revelations that started the train of events leading to the final denouement—the trek to jail. Yet, Singson would not have come out had not the attempt on his life been made. Had the police succeeded in abducting him, he would have preceded Bubby Dacer. Singson's exposé led to a Senate investigation and the filing of an impeachment charge in the House. The impeachment case would never have prospered had not Speaker Villar made a fast break to short circuit the debate in the House. In the Senate, the impeachment trial was the prime soap opera of the day and everyone viewed with shock Clarissa Ocampo's damaging testimony. But the 11 senators could not wait to show their colors to their patron. Had they just allowed the opening of the second envelope and waited for the end of the trial to vote for his acquittal, the country would not have been able to remove the president for the legal process to remove him would instead have saved him. By preempting Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.'s ruling to allow the opening of the second envelope, Sen. Kit Tatad unleashed a lightning flash that would ignite People Power II, send a thunderbolt to Malacañang and evict its tenant. In each of these events, the religious sees the hand of God. This observer believes God must love our people for Him to save us from a venal leadership. As Doronila once said, Erap ruled the country like a personal fiefdom and damaged our political institutions. The good Lord removed him from power before he could totally destroy our political system.

One of my favorite books these days is the series of "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books, the latest being one for the golden soul, a collection of heartwarming stories for people 60 and over. In one of its tales, a godfather gives his graduating godson minimaxims to guide him in life and one of these maxims is to keep an eye on the law of the echo.

The law of the echo. Is there really such a law? Is the universe actually arranged so that whatever you send out—honesty or dishonesty, kindness or cruelty—ultimately comes back to you? It's hard to be sure. And yet, since the beginning of recorded history, mankind has had the conviction, based partly on intuition, partly on observation, that in the long run a man does indeed reap what he sows.

Erap has sown a great many bad oats, both known and unknown, to reap so early in his presidency not only the termination of power but even the termination of his liberty. If he gets the death penalty, it may ostensibly be for plunder but in truth it will be for Dacer and Bentain. Yes, indeed, the universe is ruled by a Superior Being who sends back to each what he sends out.

Yet, Erap must have sent out some good deeds. His children aver he is a very good father. Some people attest to his kindness. The good that he has done probably explains why God has chosen to have him suffer humiliation. He could have spared him ignominy by giving him a fatal heart attack. God is giving him a chance to repent, admit his wrongdoings and confess the names of the drug lords who corrupted him. If he does, he may yet save the country from the fate of Colombia, send the drug lords to the death chamber and redeem himself.

Rosario Mendoza Cortes, 78, is professor emeritus of history at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO. . .?

Icasiano's death by hazing

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines student Alexander Miguel Icasiano, 19, died at dusk on Aug. 16, 1998, hours after attending initiation rites of the Alpha Phi Beta fraternity. He was declared dead on arrival at the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City, where four men took him around 5:45 p.m. His body, clad only in black short pants, bore contusions in the buttocks, left shoulder, arms and knees. (PDI, 8/18/98)

Icasiano, a third year public administration student, was acting chair of the Sanlakas-Youth in UP Diliman. SPO3 Jesus Patriarca, the investigator assigned to the case, said it could be "easily deduced" that Icasiano's injuries were due to "mauling by hazing."

On Aug. 29, 1998, seven APB members presented themselves to then NBI Director Santiago Toledo to show that they were not hiding. They were Cris Landrito, Vince Yambao, Jeff Asis, Arnel Tato, Bong Arollado, John Paul Galang and Ryan Jornada. On Nov. 7, eight APB members and officers were charged for violating the Anti-Hazing Law at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court. Those charged were Jornada, APB lord chancellor Mario Zinampan, vice chancellor Christopher de Guzman, Errol Ramos, Ian Martinez, Jeffrey Roden, Kit Buenaventura and Erickson Taeza, Icasiano's fellow neophyte. A complaint for car theft was likewise filed against Ramos, Jon Llenes and Rey Millan. The cases were raffled off to the sala of Judge Jose Mendoza of Branch 219.

The accused were detained at the NBI Detention Cell. But they were transferred to the Quezon City Jail on Jan. 21, 1999 because in the hearings, they were always brought in late by their NBI custodian.

The accused, except for Taeza who had a pending motion for review with the Department of Justice, pleaded "not guilty" when arraigned on Jan. 20. Taeza was arraigned on Feb. 3. He also pleaded not guilty.

Due to the Icasiano family's acceptance of a bargaining agreement with the defense, the accused pleaded guilty to the lesser offense of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide on Oct. 28, 1999. However, the charge against Taeza was dismissed for lack of probable cause. Zinampan and De Guzman got a sentence of six months to two years and four months. While the rest were meted out a sentence of three years to six years and one day. On the same day, Zinampan and De Guzman were granted temporary liberty on recognizance of their counsels. They immediately applied for probation which was granted on Dec. 15, 1999. The probation was set for two years. The rest of the suspects were committed to the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City.

Due to the affidavit of desistance executed by Icasiano's mother on Oct. 28, the car theft case was ordered dismissed on Nov. 11.

Last July 17, Zinampan moved for the early termination of his probation. He argued, among others, that he has consistently and religiously complied with all the conditions of his probation.

Case status: On Jan. 29, 2001, the court granted Zinampan's motion. In the decision, the court said that the motion was meritorious and that Zinampan deserves an early termination of his probation.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

LETTERS

Recall election term not a full term

I WRITE in behalf of my client, Leonardo B. Roman, governor of Bataan, in response to arguments, set forth in the column of Neal H. Cruz on May 14 and 21, 2001 about Roman.

Cruz may have been misled in the views he expressed in his column.

Cruz proposes for consideration the twin issues of whether or not my client was qualified to present himself as a candidate for the position of governor of Bataan as well as of whether or not Roman's proclamation should be suspended. It should be noted that the Constitution and the Local Government Code prescribe a three-term limit for all local elective officials.

The crux of the first issue, simply put, is, may a term served in consequence of a recall election be considered a term for purposes of applying the proscription in the Constitution and the Local Government Code?

Worthy of mention is the fact that my client merely served the remaining 11 months, more or less, of a term that was originally being served by Enrique T. Garcia Jr. until his recall became effective.

As has been uniformly held by the Commission on Elections in Cruz vs. Roman (SPA No. 98-198, May 28, 1998 and subsequently affirmed by the commission en banc on Sept. 3, 1998), Bautista and Magdalera vs. Roman (SPA No. 98-265, Dec. 10, 1998), and of late, Ramos vs. Roman (SPA No. 01-068, May 8, 2001), a term conceived out of a recall election cannot be constitutionally and statutorily reckoned as a term in contemplation of the aforementioned three-term limit. Such being the case, my client's assumption and service of nine months, more or less, cannot be legally taken as a full term. Thus, the recall election of 1993 constituted a break in the service of the full term of three years that is, from 1992 to 1995, which a local elective official should fully serve.

Independently of the heretofore enumerated cases, the Comelec en banc declared in Adormeo vs. Talaga Jr., (SPA 01-055, May 9, 2001), that the recall election wherein Talaga won over the incumbent mayor should not be considered as one term for purposes of the three-term limitation.

With various points of time as reference, the term embraced by the 1995 local elections was my client's first term while that included in the 1998 electoral exercises was his second. The term corresponding to the 2001 elections would be his third contrary to the impression that Cruz painstakingly portrayed in his column.

In fact, in the Talaga case, as in my client's predicament, it was written in essence that while it is true that the comment of Fr. Raul Bernas deserves due respect, the same cannot be applied in Talaga's case by reason that a representative is different from a mayor (or, in my client's case, a governor), which Father Bernas made specific mention. There is no recall election for members of the House of Representatives unlike local government officials.

About the issue on the suspension of proclamation of my client, he being the sole and only candidate to the position of governor of Bataan, the same has been rendered moot and academic. The proclamation of my client took place on May 16, 2001. And rightly so. Thus far, upon termination of the Comelec's provincial canvass on May 19, 2001, the Bataeños have loudly and resoundingly spoken. My client received an overwhelming mandate of more than 93 percent of those who trooped to the polls, easily besting E. T. Garcia Jr. in the latter's own turf, the second district of Bataan.

Cruz's opinions are founded on speculations and lack of knowledge of the obtaining scenarios and, perhaps, calculated to deliberately shape public opinion and the discerning minds of magistrates when my client's rival elevates his case to the Supreme Court.—**ANTHONY JAY B. CONSUNJI, 2/F Avon Bldg., Manahan Street, Tenejero, Balanga, Bataan**

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THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Pleasing everyone

E.P. Dakanay Jr. has every reason to be scathing in his comments about President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo visiting Erap in the hospital (Letters, 5/23/01): "Is President Macapagal insecure about Erap's vaunted 11 million fans that she has to seek Erap's aid for them to be mollified? This unfortunate flirtation with Erap last Saturday will burst her bubble in no time....The efforts at 'reconciliation' between contending political parties are absolutely contemptible because in reality these are attempts at connivance and accommodation."

I saw the pictures in the newspapers too and felt the same way. This was the second time Ms Macapagal visited Erap in a couple of weeks, the first time being before the elections, shortly after the Mendiola riots. During the first visit, Erap made it a point to cover with one hand his wristband that proclaimed him to be the president of the Philippines. Which the INQUIRER noted in a caption. The second time around, Erap made no such effort. It was as if, buoyed by the results of the elections—he was reportedly elated by the dismal showing of Bong Revilla and Nora Aunor, who had turned against him at Edsa II, and by Pablito Sanidad, who had hounded him in the impeachment trial—and by a President who appeared to wear her mantle loosely, he felt on top of the world again.

I myself can think of a couple of reasons why Ms Macapagal would troop to Erap—because that was what it was—and try to "reconcile" with him, as Dakanay puts it. Neither of which bodes well for the nation.

The first one is that negotiations did indeed take place between government and the leaders of "Edsa III" during the height of the rallies, and terms of "surrender" were agreed upon. To this day, I cannot for the life of me understand why the Iglesia ni Cristo suddenly decided to bolt the rally. They were the central column of "Edsa III," ordered to the Shrine explicitly by Eraño Manalo who reacted violently to his friend and benefactor, Erap, being photographed and fingerprinted like a common thief. One INC member would tell me in a letter that the order took the form of an advice to INC members that they were free to join the rally. Seemingly a matter of choice, it struck a contrast with a similar advice from INC officials during Edsa II not to join the rally but to stay "neutral and apolitical." Could they disobey? Yes, said my letter writer, but the only thing worse than Catholic guilt is Iglesia guilt.

Manalo decided to pull out his religious troops from the rally after he had a talk with government emissaries. What did they talk about? Only he and the emissaries can say, but it is not hard to see Erap's fate figuring at the heart of it. Not long afterward, I would see him and Ms Macapagal on TV talking earnestly about the elections, specifically about the INC endorsement of candidates. Which was another occasion for horse-trading. Manalo would have done Ms Macapagal a favor twice over. What did he stand to get in return?

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines is aghast that Ms Macapagal should propose house arrest rather than jail for Erap. "House arrest today, amnesty tomorrow," they say. They have a point. The way Ms Macapagal has gone about loosening the screws on Erap, that is not out of the question. That is in fact the logical conclusion. I would not put it past Manalo to have suggested it.

The other reason the CBCP itself hits on when it says Ms Macapagal has been inconsistent on the issue. Consistency, or the application of a single universal standard, has never been Ms Macapagal's strongest suit. On the contrary, the application of double standards has always been so. Shortly before "Edsa III," Ms Macapagal also drew flak for meeting with Norberto Manero, the one person whose pardon the Catholic Church had been seething over. An asset of the AFP during Cory Aquino's time, Manero was doing time for, among others, the murder of Fr. Tullo Favali, whose brains he was reported to have eaten for its *anting-anting* powers.

Ironically, Ms Macapagal met with Manero while in the middle of a spat with the artists over the banning of "Live Show," which she justified in the most prissily moralistic terms. And now there she was flashing her 100-kilowatt smile while shaking Manero's hand. Which led to a tide of protest from letter writers—the letters flew thick and fast in the Letters' section of the INQUIRER and my own e-mail—who wondered if she really knew the meaning of the word "pornographic."

It would be the case as well after the Mendiola riots when she would not arrest Miriam Defensor Santiago, would set Juan Ponce Enrile out on bail and would not send a posse out for Ping Lacson and Gringo Honasan. The last two were right there campaigning toward the end of the campaign period. While on the other hand throwing the book on the toothless (some of them literally) rioters—a couple were pleading to be freed to take care of their temporarily orphaned children—and hunting down their more plebeian leaders who were presumably hiding under beds in the hovels of Payatas and other slums.

I did ask the question: What would happen if Lacson et al. won? The answer to that is no longer hypothetical. "In the case of Honasan," Ms Macapagal told reporters, "it's really rebellion, so that's something which is more within our flexibility." Flexibility is another word for pardon. Or forgetting.

That has been the one distinguishing feature so far of Ms Macapagal's "presidential style," as pundits like to put it—a capacity to bend this way and that as the wind turns. Which shows clearly a lack of moral anchor, or gravity, the kind that will make someone pursue a policy to its logical end. It is not that Ms Macapagal does not do the right thing. It is that she does the right thing only to the extent that it is also popular. Or more to the point, only to the extent that it does not become unpopular. Once it becomes so, she backs down. That is the source of the inconsistency.

Early this week, Ms Macapagal conceded on TV that Erap had charisma while she did not. Charisma, she said, was something that inhered in the person, particularly one with a strong personality. Well, yes and no. Charisma is also a matter of having strong beliefs, of being passionate about something. Compared to the ease with which Ms Macapagal abandons a policy—or indeed people: she turned against the artists who had supported her in Edsa II to side with Jaime Cardinal Sin—Erap's refusal to give up friends, however criminal their activities, and however they hiss like snakes in the grass, like Mark Jimenez, looks almost like a virtue. That is what makes for charisma too.

Ms Macapagal's way of doing things Aesop had something trenchant to say about: You try pleasing everyone, you'll end up pleasing no one.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@ vasia.com

The WORLD

Mideast foes show no sign of ending fighting

JERUSALEM—Trading gunfire and recriminations, Israelis and Palestinians gave no signs they were prepared to halt eight months of fighting and implement a US-backed truce plan.

Several such plans have failed to end the Mideast bloodletting, and the report written by an international commission, headed by former US Sen. George Mitchell, has sparked a new round of angry verbal exchanges this week.

Five Israeli tanks entered a Palestinian area in the Gaza Strip yesterday, firing shells and heavy machine guns at a Palestinian residential area and blocking a main road to Palestinian traffic, eyewitnesses said. The tanks withdrew after about half an hour and the road was reopened.

The tank incursion was apparently in response to the firing of two mortar shells yesterday at the nearby Jewish settlement of Netzarim, and to the wounding of an Israeli soldier during the night by a roadside bomb which was set off as his vehicle passed by, on the edge of the Gaza Strip. Nobody was hurt by the mortar rounds.

In the West Bank Palestinians opened fire at an Army vehicle near Hebron, but there were no casualties.

Gunbattles raged on Wednesday in the southern Gaza Strip, where 38 Palestinians were hurt, according to doctors, and on the outskirts of Jerusalem, where an 86-year-old Israeli man was seriously injured by a bullet to the chest. Also, a Palestinian shooting ambush killed an Israeli motorist in the West Bank.

The Mitchell Commission plan calls on both sides to halt violence and urges Israel to freeze construction in Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Responding to the commission, Israel announced Tuesday it would not halt building in the areas the Palestinians claim for a future state, but said it would observe a limited unilateral truce.

But there was no letup in fighting Wednesday, and the Palestinians were quick to dismiss the offer, saying calm could only be restored after settlement construction is halted.

"It's a public relations practice originally meant for the American and Israeli publics," said Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres urged the Palestinians to join the truce effort. "I read that some of our Palestinian neighbors said that this is just a trick, a public-relations trick, on the side of Israel. I invite the Palestinians to pull the same trick." Peres said.

US President George W. Bush called Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Wednesday and urged them to take steps to end the violence.

It was only Bush's second telephone conversation with Arafat, and he did not invite the Palestinian leader to meet him at the White House, a senior US official said.

In Wednesday's gunbattle at Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, each side blamed the other for starting the firefight. *AP*

Jeffords to give US senate to Democrats

JEFFORDS

BURLINGTON, Vt.—Sen. James Jeffords, with the Senate's balance of power in his hands, has scheduled an appearance on Thursday in his home state of Vermont, where political sources say he will announce he is leaving the Republican Party.

Republican and Democratic sources said Jeffords, rejecting final pleas from party members, would make public his decision to become an independent—a bombshell move that would hand the Democrats control of the Senate and threaten President George W. Bush's conservative agenda.

A Jeffords defection would hand Democrats control of the now evenly divided Senate for the first time since 1994 and threaten Bush's agenda, which includes tax cuts, a massive new missile defense system and conservative judicial nominees.

The 67-year-old moderate, often at odds with the White House, initially planned to announce his defection from the Republicans in Washington on Wednesday.

But he abruptly postponed the declaration so he could deliver it before his own constituents at 9:30 a.m. EDT on Thursday (Friday in Manila) in Burlington, Vermont.

"Senator Jeffords has told us that he will become an independent and organize with us," a senior Democratic congressional source said.

Republicans sources familiar with the situation said Republicans had been told Jeffords was leaving their ranks.

While Republicans control the House of Representatives and thus the flow of legislation there, a Democratic-led Senate would make the call on when various measures would be brought to the floor for consideration.

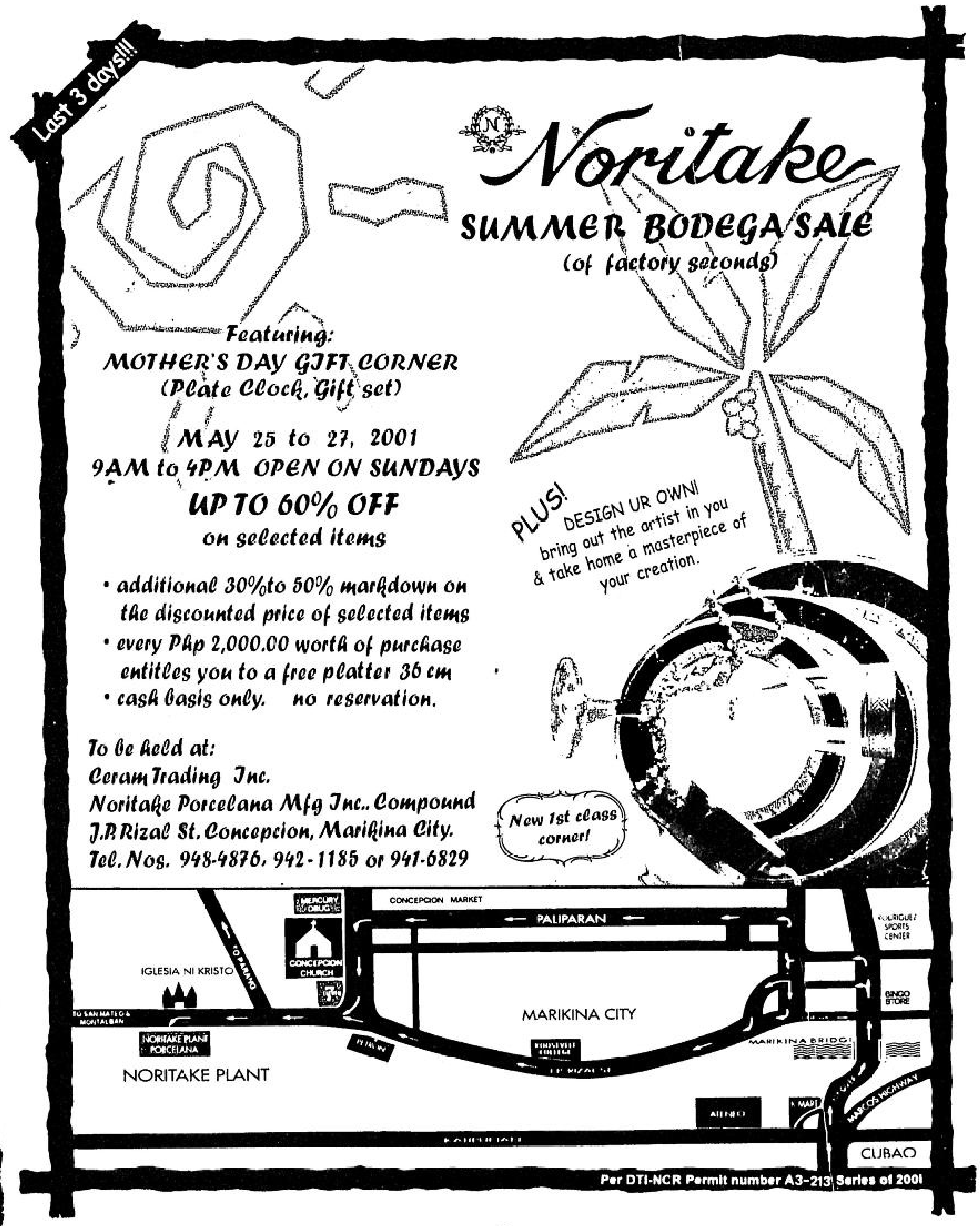
Sen. Robert Torricelli, a New Jersey Democrat, sounding as if Jeffords had already left the Republicans, said on Wednesday that the move would increase Democrats' "ability to now put the issues of education, the environment and fair tax relief before the American people—it's a dramatic change."

"We can better compete with the White House with a somewhat more equal platform," Torricelli said.

A senior Republican congressional source said, "This (a Jeffords defection) would turn the Senate upside down.

President Bush would have reason to worry."

Jeffords left the Capitol on Wednesday night after the second of two meetings with a group of Republicans who urged him to remain in the party. "He said he would think it over," Sen. Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican, said. *Reuters*



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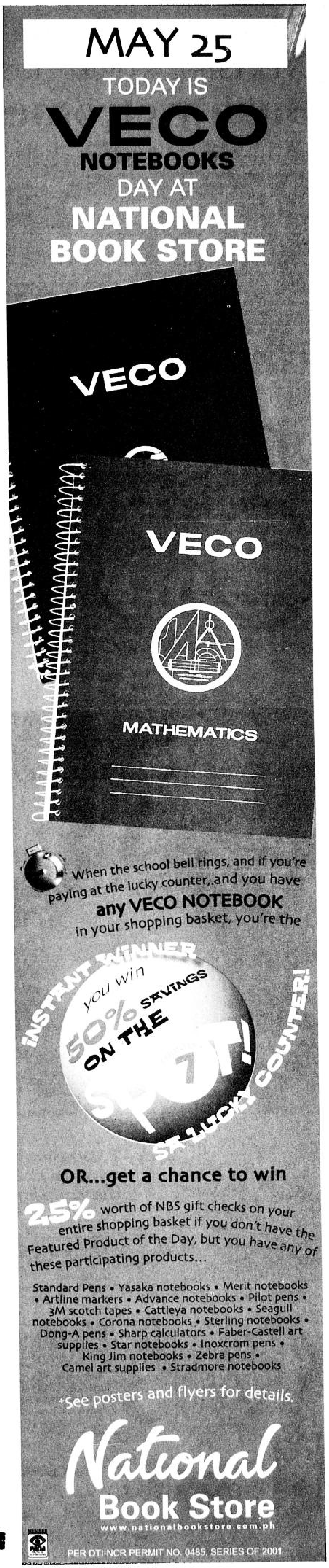

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OVER CHINA'S OBJECTION

Bush welcomes Dalai Lama

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush extended a carefully measured welcome to the Dalai Lama on Wednesday despite complaints from China. He said he supported the exiled Buddhist leader's efforts to begin talking with Chinese leaders about preserving Tibet's religious and cultural identity.

China, while marking the 50th anniversary of its rule over Tibet, condemned the White House meeting, saying that the reception and the US visit of Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian indicated a toughening stance against China.

Bush, along with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, greeted the Dalai Lama in the White House residence, not the Oval Office. Bush aides stressed that he received the Dalai Lama in his capacity as a religious leader, and that the visit did not indicate a shift in policy toward China.

"The president commended the Dalai Lama's commitment to nonviolence and declared his strong support for the Dalai Lama's tireless efforts to initiate a dialogue with the Chinese government," White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said. "The president said he would seek ways to encourage dialogue, and expressed his hope that the Chinese government would respond favorably."

In China, however, state television reported that Luo Gan, the Communist Party's top cadre for law and order, told officials that the Dalai Lama was "traveling further and further down the separatist road." The official Xinhua News Agency said Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Zhou Wenzhong lodged a formal diplomatic protest of Chen's visit with the US Embassy in Beijing.

"Obviously, we took that on board," said State Department spokesperson Philip Reeker. "We've certainly heard the Chinese views before on that subject."

State media portray modern Tibet as an increasingly prosperous land where religious freedom thrives, education is universal and residents rally behind the government in Beijing. The "peaceful liberation" of Tibet by Chinese forces in 1950 "marked the first step for people in Tibet toward sunshine and happiness from darkness and suffering," Xinhua said.

China sealed its control over Tibet with a 17-point agreement signed with representatives of the Dalai Lama in Beijing on May 23, 1951, after Tibetan forces surrendered to a superior Chinese Army. Beijing considers the agreement a symbol of the legitimacy of its claim over Tibet.

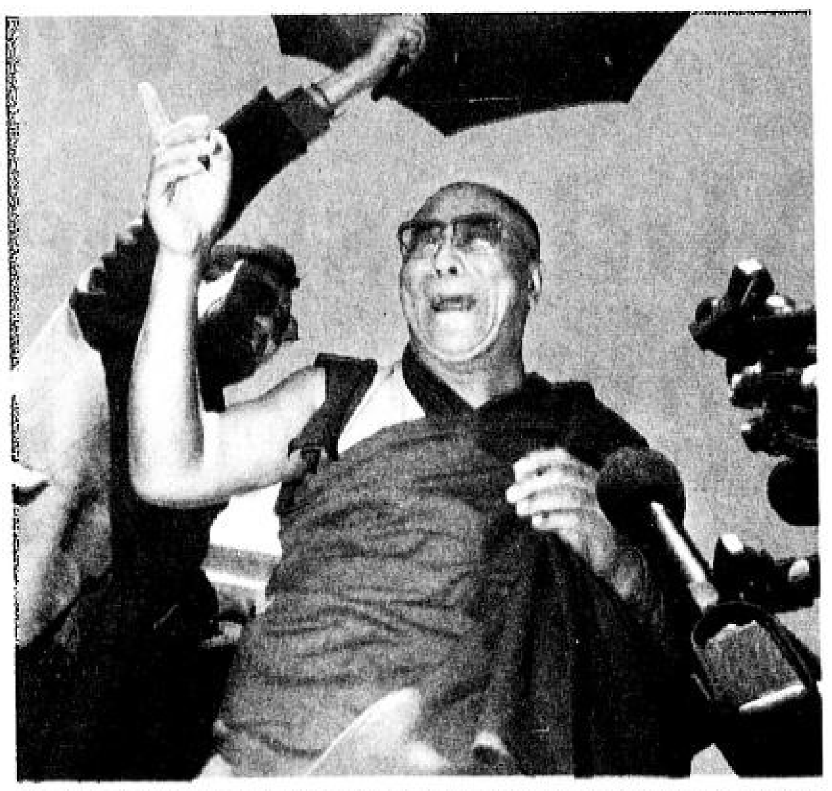
A major uprising against Chinese rule in 1959 was suppressed by Chinese forces. The Dalai Lama then fled to India, where he repudiated the agreement, claiming the Tibetan officials were coerced into signing it.

The Dalai Lama said he told Bush he is seeking "genuine self-rule" as "a mutually equitable solution" for Tibet and China, and Bush shared that approach.

"I assured to him that in the future, whenever the president has an opportunity to meet with the Chinese leader, he can assure the Chinese government I'm not seeking independence," the Dalai Lama said.

He said Bush showed him "very genuine, human, warm feelings. That I very much appreciate."

Fleischer said Bush repeated that the United States would "support the preservation of Tibet's unique religious, cultural and linguistic identity, and the protection of the human rights of all Tibetans." *AP*



TIBET spiritual leader the Dalai Lama speaks with reporters at the White House after his meeting with President George Bush May 23. REUTERS

Megawati seen ousting Wahid by August

JAKARTA—Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri will be Indonesia's President by August, a former Cabinet minister predicted Tuesday.

The prediction came as the country's military chief called on political leaders to make sacrifices to end the deepening leadership crisis created by moves in parliament to impeach President Abdurrahman Wahid.

"I believe the leadership problem will be resolved very soon. I expect that to happen before August," said Ryaas Rasyid, who until early this year served as state minister for regional autonomy.

Asked if by "resolution" he meant the vice president replacing Wahid, Rasyid replied: "Yes."

"Because if the president is really playing with the idea of dissolving parliament, I believe the parliament cannot wait until August, so they will try to hold a special session before August," he said on the sidelines of an American business luncheon here.

Wahid is expected to face a special session of the national assembly that will consider his impeachment in two to three months.

Members of the lower house of parliament (DPR) will decide on May 30 whether to call the special session, after twice censuring Wahid over alleged financial impropriety and incompetence.

But senior MPs say the majority of legislators have already decided to press for the impeachment hearing.

Meanwhile, with just over a week to go until the May 30 session, both the military and Megawati's staff sought to ease tensions in the capital.

Military Chief Admiral Widodo Adisucipto, in a statement read out by a general at military headquarters, called on the country's political elite to make sacrifices to reach a political compromise for the sake of the nation. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

India-Pakistan talks

NEW DELHI—India on Wednesday invited Pakistan for peace talks in an unexpected gesture that could end five decades of hostility. Islamabad immediately replied that it would respond favorably. "India's commitment to peace, dialogue and cooperative coexistence with Pakistan remains unaltered," Minister of Defense Jaswant Singh said in a prepared statement. "Prime Minister Vajpayee has decided to invite Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the chief executive of Pakistan to visit India at his early convenience." In the Pakistani capital, state-run television run a statement from foreign secretary Inam-ul Haq saying Islamabad would respond favorably. Pakistani military ruler Musharraf "has expressed Pakistan's willingness to hold talks with India at any level, any time and at any place," Haq was quoted as saying. "Pakistan believes that a solution to the Kashmir dispute should be found through dialogue and in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people." *AP*

Cardinals continue meet

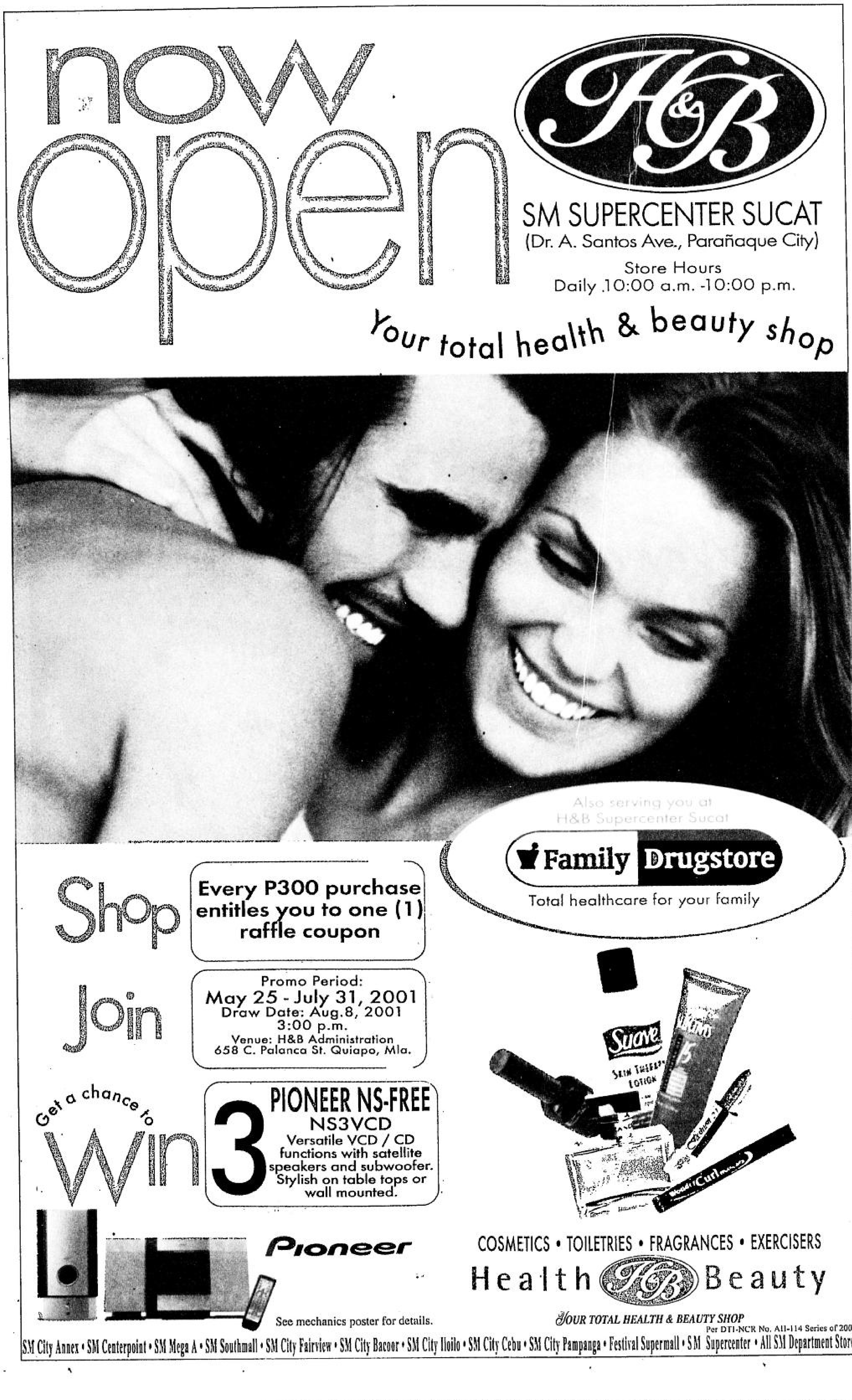
VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II on Tuesday hosted the second day of a special meeting of cardinals, with the focus of debate on the challenges faced by the Roman Catholic Church in its missionary work, in interreligious relations and globalization. On the opening day of the so-called consistory Monday the Pontiff had asked the Vatican's top ecclesiastics to indicate a clear strategy to help the Catholic Church pursue its global mission in the third millennium. The three-day consistory is the sixth of its kind that John Paul, now frail and ailing, has called since the start of his pontificate in 1978. *AFP*

AIDS policy differences

GENEVA—World health officials on Tuesday closed an annual assembly dominated by discussions on the access to anti-AIDS drugs and a disagreement between rich and poor countries over a $20-million funding shortfall for 2002. The World Health Organization's (WHO) assembly adopted a resolution aiming to step up action against HIV/AIDS, but the text was a modified version from the one submitted by Brazil. Brazil tried to win approval for a text recognizing the validity of its legislation in combating AIDS through the production of generic drugs. However, the United States, which has taken Brasilia to the World Trade Organization over its generic drugs system, opposed the text. *AFP*

PM: Thai Air 'terrible'

BANGKOK—Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra says the national flag carrier Thai Airways is such a terrible airline that he is "very happy" when he doesn't get a seat on it. "If I were not a public figure, I wouldn't fly with Thai. It sucks," Thaksin said in an interview published in the English language Bangkok Post newspaper yesterday. Thaksin's unbridled criticism of Thai Airways International is another blow to the airline's reputation, tarnished by freeloading executives and a fire aboard a parked jet that the prime minister was to board in March. The Post's editor, Pichai Chuensuksawadi, said Thaksin spoke in Thai and used the word "huay" to describe the airline, which is an all-encompassing derogatory word that can be translated as "it sucks" or "it is terrible and lousy." *AP*



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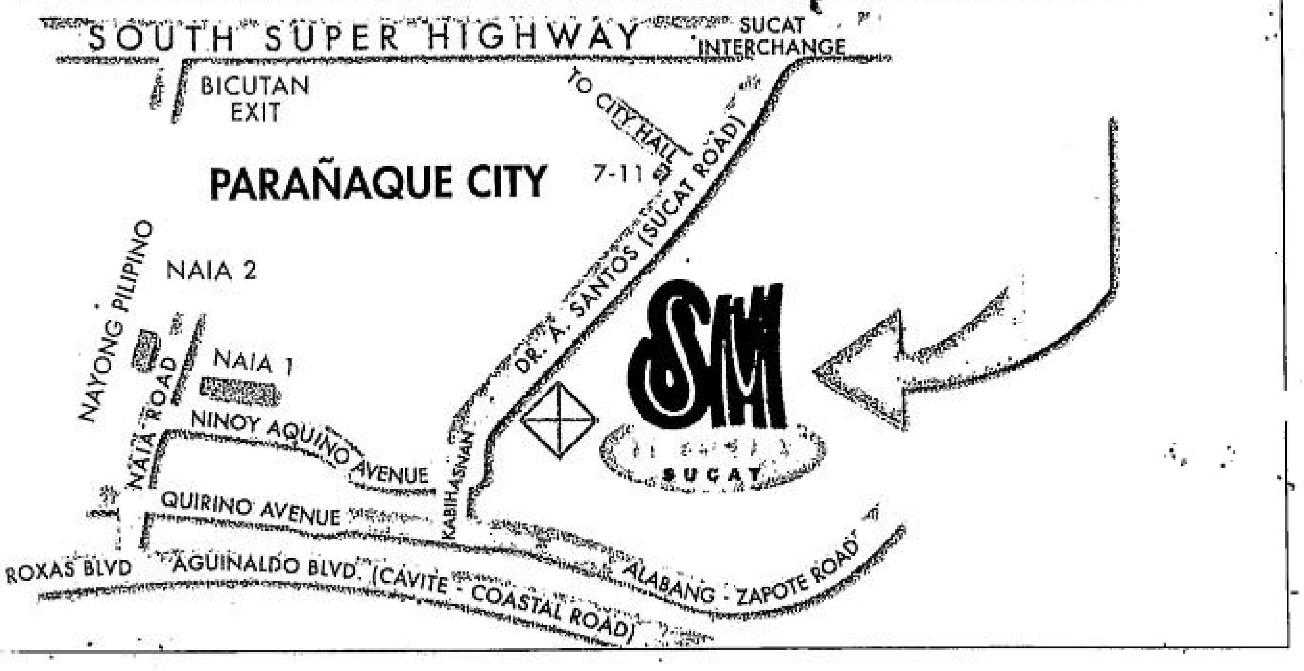
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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Palace warns looters of shipwreck relics

BY JULIET LABOG-JAVELLANA AND ELIZABETH MARCELO
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SHIPWRECK relics have become hot items to antique collectors.

MALACAÑANG has banned the retrieval of artifacts from the site of an ancient shipwreck off the coast of Sta. Cruz, Zambales.

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the National Museum was contracting a private archeological group to conduct the retrieval of the artifacts which are believed to date back to the Ming Dynasty some 500 years ago.

Tiglao said Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz met on Monday with National Museum Director Gabriel Casal and other officials, as well as the commandant and other officers of the Philippine Coast Guard.

"The agreement was that no one should be diving there. (There was a) cease-and-desist (order) from any diving there," Tiglao said in a briefing.

"In fact, the National Museum will be contracting a private archeological group to conduct the archeological excavation and any retrieval of any artifacts is strictly prohibited," he said.

He said the procedure would be to map the area, mark and photograph it before any authorized retrieval is conducted.

"So any artifacts in the possession of anybody is considered illegally retrieved," Tiglao said.

He said the Coast Guard was tasked to secure the site for the National Museum.

Malacañang's action appeared to be late in the day because private divers have reportedly retrieved the precious artifacts and sold them to people, including the wife of Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay.

Today, the Coast Guard will turn over to the National Museum over 100 pieces of the artifacts recovered from the shipwreck believed to be that of a 16th-century Chinese junk.

Over the past two weeks, officials of the Coast Guard and the National Museum had traded accusations of interference and "overzealousness" in the recovery of the sunken relics.

The word war ensued as thousands of artifacts were reported to have already proliferated in other Zambales towns and have found their way to antique dealers and souvenir shops in Metro Manila.

After the turnover at the Coast Guard detachment at Magsaysay Park in Sta. Cruz, the two agencies are expected to discuss the National Museum guidelines on the retrieval of artifacts from the wreck, which has yielded ancient Chinese ceramics and pottery.

The artifacts to be turned over include those that were illegally retrieved by the 33 fishermen arrested by Coast Guard personnel on Sunday and Monday.

The fishermen face either imprisonment of two years or a fine of not more than P10,000 each.

About 100 other fishermen, who were reported to have hauled off thousands of pieces before the Coast Guard began securing the area on May 10, have yet to be identified.

In a complaint filed with the Sta. Cruz municipal trial court, local police officials accused the arrested fishermen of violating provisions of the Salvage Law and the Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act.

SPO4 Adriano Casas, investigator assigned to the case, said the fishermen struck after the Coast Guard vessel anchored near the wreck site left at the height of heavy rains on May 20.

"*Akala nila umalis na ang* Coast Guard *pero nag*-shelter *lang talaga ang barko* (They thought that the Coast Guard personnel had left the area but the ship only sought shelter)," Casas said.

The fishermen, unaware that the Coast Guard's 24-hour watch was still on and there were teams deployed in the surrounding areas, descended on the wreck site.

That night, Coast Guard teams arrested 16 fishermen from Barangays Lipay and Riverside here. On Monday morning, 17 more were arrested, all from San Salvador Island in nearby Masinloc town.

Money seekers surprise Lobregat

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Hundreds of residents, most of them mothers, trooped to the City Hall on Tuesday and yesterday after receiving reports that reelected Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat was giving money for enrolment.

Lobregat was surprised to see people forming long queues at City Hall and at her house on Nuñez Street.

Those who rushed to the area claimed they heard over a local radio station that the mayor was giving cash gifts for enrolment.

They said a radio announcer had told listeners to bring the report cards of students for them to avail of the cash gifts.

Lobregat denied making such offer. She assailed the radio announcer, whom she did not name, as "very irresponsible for spreading false reports and misinformation."

"I have never issued a statement that I will give money for their enrolment. What we are providing are free medicines to indigents," she said.

Lobregat said some losing candidates could be behind the move aimed at embarrassing her administration.

But Lorma Menor, who was among those who flocked to City Hall, said that whether the report was true or not, Lobregat should have at least given them a small monetary assistance.

"She (Lobregat) and her family are very rich and we just want her to give us a certain amount to help pay for the enrollment of our children. Is that too hard to do?" Menor asked.

Lobregat, however, gave transportation money to those who came from Basilan province, Ozamiz and Pagadian cities.

She also ordered her executive assistant, Miguel Apostol, to conduct an investigation on the incident.

Jonathan Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Proclamation of De Oro election winners stopped

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Commission on Elections' first division has stopped the proclamation of Padayon Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa local candidates who are leading in the latest results of the City Board of Canvassers.

Mayoral candidate Aquilino Pimentel III of the People Power Coalition, son of Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., filed a petition for disqualification and the suspension of proclamation of the 15 Padayon Pilipino-PnM candidates.

They included Constantino Jaraula, who is running in the lone congressional district of Cagayan de Oro; Vicente Emano, who is running for mayor; John Elizaga, for vice mayor; and 12 others seeking council seats.

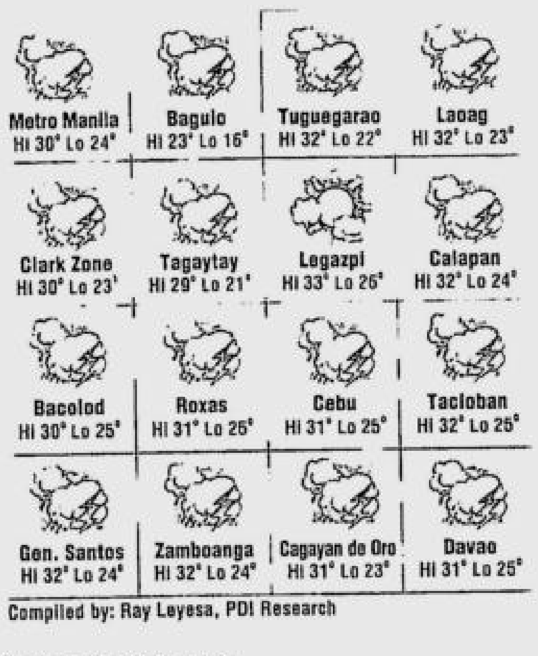
Pimentel alleged that the respondents committed election offenses, like campaigning beyond the campaign period; use of public funds for vote-buying; and "outright, shameless, systematic, and massive" vote-buying before and during election day.

Pimentel claimed that his camp had 55 witnesses who had executed affidavits disclosing "massive fraud and vote-buying." *Ellen Red and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern and Western Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA



Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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MNLF to bring self-determination cause before UN

By Froilan Gallardo, Grace Cantal-Albasin and Charlie Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) is sending a delegation to the United Nations in a bid to gain international sympathy for the right to self-determination of the Bangsamoro people.

Lawyer Elly Pamatong, chief of the MNLF delegation, said the holding of a referendum in Mindanao to decide a Moro federal state or independence would top their agenda in the UN.

Pamatong said his group would leave for New York next week.

"Our mission is to tell the world that the Bangsamoro people is physically and politically excluded in the Philippines," he said during a press conference here.

"The Bangsamoro people need more than justice and fairness from the international community," he added.

Pamatong said a UN-sponsored referendum would be "less bloodier" compared with the armed struggle espoused by other Moro groups like the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

He said his group was hopeful that it would receive the backing of 57 states in the Arab world in the UN.

"The referendum would decide whether people in Mindanao want a federal system government or independence," he said.

The idea of sending a delegation to the UN was approved during the MNLF-sponsored Fourth Bangsamoro national congress in Zamboanga City in March, he added.

In Cotabato City, Gov. Nur Misuari of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao said he was still head of the MNLF after the influential Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) invited his group to the 28th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) meeting in Mali on June 24-29.

Earlier, the 15-member executive council of the MNLF, headed by Dr. Parouk Hussin, passed a resolution removing Misuari from the chairmanship and naming him "chairman emeritus."

Mahendra Madjilon, ARMM information chief, said therefore the ICFM meeting, the MNLF would attend an OIC senior officials' "preparatory meeting" scheduled in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on May 26-29.

The OIC invitation was addressed to Misuari as MNLF chair, Madjilon said. This, he said, "only shows that the governor is still acknowledged by the Islamic world as the official MNLF leader, and not retired as peddled by the 15-man executive body."

He said Misuari had formed a "high-level team," composed of MNLF secretary general for foreign relations Ustadz Abdulbaki Abubakar, political adviser Absalom Cervesa and MNLF information committee chair Ibrahim Omar, that will represent the MNLF in the Jeddah meeting.

For the past 30 years, the Misuari-led MNLF has been enjoying permanent observer status in the 56-member nation OIC, Madjilon said.

Despite clarifications made by Misuari's information bureau that he still wields the MNLF leadership, divisiveness in the organization reportedly persists. The breakaway group of Hussin is out to convince other MNLF members to join their side.

On May 19, a Hussin-led MNLF General Assembly was held in Cotabato City, where most of the participants vowed to support the 1996 peace agreement signed by the MNLF with the government, said MNLF secretary general Muslimin Sema, who had just been reelected city mayor.

Similar gatherings of former MNLF rebels who support Misuari have been scheduled in North Cotabato and Maguindanao, Madjilon said.

Even the MNLF assemblies held in Jolo, Sulu, on May 19 and in General Santos City on May 20 were supportive of Misuari, he added.

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Promdi stalwarts in Cebu to join Lakas-NUCD

By Malou Apalisok
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Promdi stalwarts in Cebu are set to bolt the regional party to join the Lakas-NUCD amid complaints that they were "abandoned" by Promdi founder, former Cebu Gov. Emilio "Lito" Osmeña, in the last elections.

A Lakas official in Cebu said Representative-elect Clavel Asas Martinez (Promdi, 4th district) already talked to President Macapagal-Arroyo last week about their decision to join the Lakas-NUCD.

Martinez, according to the source, assured the President that she "will bring all the fourth district mayors" to Lakas.

This developed even as former Rep. Celestino "Junnie" Martinez, Clavel's husband and Promdi's losing vice gubernatorial candidate, told a local radio station that he has to consult his supporters about plans to move to Lakas.

All nine towns comprising the fourth district elected Promdi candidates for mayor, vice mayor and members of the provincial board during the May 14 polls. The district is under the political control of the Martinezes.

Promdi claims to have won in 21 of Cebu's 48 municipalities.

Reelectionist Gov. Pablo Garcia, who is leading in the race, also announced plans to leave Promdi, citing its failure to provide funding for the candidates' poll watchers.

He said Promdi candidates in Cebu were only able to pull through because of the support of Lakas-NUCD, which provided watchers in every precinct so that they could get a copy of the election returns.

Talks that Lito Osmeña did not fully support Junnie's vice gubernatorial bid also spread after the latter trailed behind provincial board member John Gregory "John-John" Osmeña in the race. John-John is the son of Sen. John "Sonny" Osmeña, Lito's estranged brother.

Lito, in a previous statement, said he supported Junnie "100 percent" but admitted telling supporters not to attack John-John's candidacy.

While Lito and his brother Sonny have been at odds for over ten years, Lito had insisted the feud should not extend to the next-generation Osmeñas.

Garcia told a news conference Wednesday that he and Junnie Martinez have both decided to "chart their own political destiny."

The governor said he would make a decision by July, but the Lakas official in Cebu said Garcia was just waiting for his proclamation before taking his oath as Lakas member.

The proclamation in the province is stalled by the delay in the canvassing of election results in Toledo City.

The proclamation of winning candidates in Madridejos town was also delayed due to the numerous protests filed by losing mayoral candidate Zenaida Salazar of Alayon. The local canvassing showed Salazar trailing Letty Mancio of Promdi by 32 votes.

Still, Garcia's swearing in becomes a "formality," according to the source, as the President had already announced the Cebu governor's entry to Lakas during a meeting on Saturday at the party headquarters in Makati City.

'Political immaturity' seen in opposition win in Central Luzon

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—In four out of six Central Luzon provinces, Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidates dominated the winners, indicating that the opposition marshaled enormous votes in one of the country's vote-rich regions.

It was only in Pampanga, the home province of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and Tarlac, the home province of former President Corazon Aquino, where the candidates of the administration's People Power Coalition cornered most of the top 13 slots.

Broadcaster Noli de Castro shattered the promise of the Lakas-NUCD in Pampanga to deliver a 13-0 sweep. The PPC, nevertheless, obtained the top 12 senatorial slots in the province, with De Castro landing 13th.

In Tarlac, former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson, former First Lady Luisa Ejercito and Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago clinched the last four slots.

In Bataan, Bulacan and Zambales, Ejercito always landed either first or second. The rest of the PnM candidates tailed her.

The initial results of tally in Nueva Ecija, where provincial canvassing was still not over on Tuesday due mainly to wrangling by local candidates, showed that the Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Balane) of the Joson clan made sure the PnM took the lead.

Bishop speaks

But the advance mustered by PnM senatorial aspirants is a reflection of the "state of political immaturity" of Central Luzon voters, analysts said.

Zambales Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, chair of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' committee on ecumenical affairs, articulated that view with a tinge of mixed apology and regrets.

Assessing from the showing of the PnM bets in the region, Iñiguez said: "I'm sorry to say this but voters were influenced by factors outside of the larger consideration for the common good."

This also suggested that traditional politics still reigned, he said.

In Zambales, for example, Ejercito ranked second because it was her home province, Iñiguez said.

Her votes, he said, were bolstered by the "Erap para sa Mahirap" image of her husband that the movies and sloganeering had created.

"The image of a corrupt, immoral president that the aborted impeachment trial tried to establish or debunk had not stuck," he said.

The bishop said this shortness of memory becomes particularly disturbing considering that Central Luzon is the nearest region north of Metro Manila where many anti- Estrada protests happened.

It is also where militant organizations are active. "Sympathy than reason, empty propaganda than moral integrity and popularity than genuine honest pro-people platform have apparently ruled. These suggest that traditional politics still reigns," Iñiguez said.

Sympathy votes

Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman, an ally of deposed President Joseph Estrada and who was eased out by the national Lakas leadership from being the official PPC candidate for governor, maintained that all that the PnM got in his province were "sympathy votes."

It was 4-8-1 in Bataan in favor of PnM.

Roman said his provincemates voted this way because their perception was that Estrada was very much humiliated during the impeachment trial and the events following that.

"There was an overkill in humiliating Erap," Roman said. He hastened to add, however, that Ms Macapagal should not be blamed because she had no hand in the Sandiganbayan that was handling the plunder case against Estrada.

Voting for the PnM, according to him, was like "responding to emotional stimuli."

Local observers like Fr. Albert Avenido, Social Action Center of Zambales director, believed that the PnM also got the votes not only because they stirred sympathy and banked on it.

They also did aggressive campaigning, he said.

For example, the PnM barnstormed through Zambales, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan and some parts of Tarlac. None was done in Pampanga.

As often as she came to Pampanga, she did the least or none in Central Luzon provinces, especially in Bulacan and Nueva Ecija, two of three provinces with the most number of voters.

It cannot be ascertained if the PnM's victory in the region was also largely due to the alliance and efforts of local candidates.

But such can be said of the Balane in Nueva Ecija and of many local candidates of the Nationalist People's Coalition in Zambales, Avenido said.

The volatile political situation in the first 100 days of the President did not give the Lakas-NUCD much chance to consolidate its ranks and keep smaller parties cooperative with the administration, according to Amy Ariem, secretary-general of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya in the region.

"These should shake us up. *Gisingin tayo* (To wake us up). *Magbago* (Change)," Iniguez said.

He said the education of voters, which is not a "one-day affair," should be integrated in formal and non-formal education.

The key step to take, according to Iñiguez, is "political education that raises the need for love of country and the good of the many."

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TOOTS SOBERANO

FUTILE PROTEST
A young girl joins a rally against election irregularities in front of the canvassing center at the Baguio Convention Center in Baguio City last week. The effort failed to stop the proclamation of the winning local candidates.

No oath-taking at Barasoain; bad luck, say poll winners

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MALOLOS, Bulacan—What's wrong with the historic Barasoain Church here?

About 300 newly elected provincial officials apparently don't want to suffer the "bad luck" that has befallen disgraced President Joseph Estrada as they refuse to hold their proclamation and oath-taking at the historic church on June 30.

Estrada took his oath of office as the 13th Philippine president at the Barasoain Church on June 30, 1998 but was ousted on Jan. 20, 2001 by a civilian uprising on plunder and corruption charges.

On Monday, reelected Gov. Josefina de la Cruz told reporters that she proposed to the new set of provincial officials, including Bulacan's mayors, vice mayors and councilors, that their oath-taking be held at the Barasoain Church.

De la Cruz said the oath-taking at Barasoain, a major historical edifice and tourist attraction in Bulacan, would be a welcome deviation from Bulacan's previous oath-taking ceremonies held at the provincial capitol's open-air quadrangle

"I brought up the idea that we take our oaths of office at Barasoain because the quadrangle is small and it's hot there. Spectators would not be comfortable at the quadrangle)," she said in Filipino.

But De la Cruz said most officials were lukewarm to her suggestion.

"They refused to hold the ceremonies at the church because they were worried that we might suffer the same bad luck that the former President, who took his oath there, suffered. So I decided to hold it at the quadrangle. Anyway, they said, Bulakeños have been used to watching the ceremonies at the quadrangle," she said.

"The majority of them do not want the ceremonies held in Barasoain so I cannot do anything but to agree," she said.

Estrada chose to take his oath at the Barasoain Church in 1998 as a fitting reminder that he is the country's "Centennial President."

The Barasoain Church played a significant role in the birth of the Philippine Republic as it is in this church where the first Philippine Congress, also known as the Malolos Congress, held its sessions.

Most local officials in Bulacan, including its governor, vice governor and three of four congressmen, belong to the administration Lakas-NUCD.

Despite this strong presence by the administration, Bulacan became an "Erap Country" as senatorial candidates of the opposition Puwersa ng Masa managed to corner seven of the top 13 slots.

Five People Power Coalition candidates and one independent candidate were among the winning senatorial bets in the province.

Estrada's wife, former first lady Luisa Ejercito, placed second in the provincial tally in the senatorial race.

Former Bulacan Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan is the highest-ranking PPC candidate who won in the province at third, behind broadcaster Noli de Castro and Estrada.

Elections displace evacuees

DAVAO CITY—The May 14 elections again displaced hundreds of Moro families from their evacuation centers in Marawi City, according to an independent peace and development agency.

Worse, relief workers lost contact with a number of evacuees and are having a hard time tracing the "re-displaced."

Baicon Macaraya, chair of the Ranao Center for Peace and Development, said officials of the provincial government had ordered some 100 evacuees who had sought refuge at the New Capitol Gymnasium to vacate the place.

The order was given shortly before the filing of the certificates of candidacies for local positions in March, Macaraya said.

The gymnasium was used as centralized canvassing center of election returns from all 32 towns in Lanao del Sur.

Macaraya said 80 other families at the Fatima Gym in downtown Marawi were also ordered by the staff of incumbent Mayor Omil Basman to vacate. Basman used the gym as his headquarters shortly before the campaign period started after March 30.

Concerned government authorities prepared a tent city for the Fatima evacuees at Barangay Kilala on the outskirts of the city, Macaraya said. But she said the area was inaccessible to public transportation.

Macaraya said aid workers could not locate the evacuees at the New Capitol.

She said the Maranaos among the New Capitol evacuees reportedly returned to their hometown in Butig, Lanao del Sur, and are now living with their relatives.

"They have become house-based evacuees. But we could no longer find them unless we do a house-to-house survey," Macaraya said.

"Now how can we find them if they are already house-based?" she said.

She said the Maguindanaoans among the New Capitol evacuees have also reportedly gone back to their towns in Maguindanao.

"But we have lost contact with them now," she said.

Irene Santiago, a member of the government panel in the peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said she had asked the evacuees in New Capitol to return to their homes as it would be used for the elections.

But she said necessary intervention had been prepared for them by Inter-act Mindanao, an agency created by President Macapagal-Arroyo to spearhead relief, rehabilitation and other programs in areas affected by the war last year. *Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Batanes folk return to quiet life after polls

By Juliet Cataluña
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BASCO, Batanes—More than a week after the elections, things have already settled down to the rustic tempo of the rural life in all towns of the country's northernmost province.

Like the typhoons that often batter the Batanes islands, the last elections stirred up the currents of discord among local political factions.

But just like the weather phenomenon, tranquility follows after the last gust of wind, bringing much relief from the deafening blare of loud speakers of contending political parties pleading support for their candidates.

Not to be ignored were the independent candidates who went from house to house to appeal for their cause.

Although the lucky ones still hold victory picnics along the immaculate beaches, things have settled down to the normal slow tempo of life in these isolated islands.

Some of those who were not as lucky had already left and retreated to their hideaways licking their wounded feelings and computing how much they had spent.

Others were busy making analysis of what went wrong and in the process would concoct plausible excuses which they think would help assuage or nullify their constituents' disappointments.

But a sure cause of celebration for all candidates and the people was the fact that while there was much mudslinging that caused tempers to rise at the height of the campaign period, still the elections ended peacefully.

One report said a foreigner allegedly involved in smuggling and illegal fishing in Batanes waters came to buy votes for certain candidates. The report is still being investigated.

The foreigner, who is a frequent visitor to Batanes, is believed to be among the financiers of fishing vessels engaged in illegal fishing in the province.

She once boasted that she had already "given much money to the people working at the provincial capitol."

New faces enter Northern Luzon politics

BAGUIO CITY—The May 14 elections saw the entry of new faces in major positions in local politics and the exit of established names holding key positions in Northern and Central Luzon.

Among the new faces in Northern Luzon politics are Governor-elect Teodoro Baguilat Jr. of Ifugao; Marcos Cojuangco, son of businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., congressman-elect of the fifth district of Pangasinan; and Aurelio Umali, congressman-elect of the third district of Nueva Ecija.

In Ifugao, Baguilat, a second-term mayor of Kiangan town, made the biggest upset in the elections in the Cordillera, beating veteran politicians, including former Rep. Gualberto Lumauig.

Baguilat began his political career in 1992 as a councilor in Kiangan, his hometown. He finished his journalism course at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, and first worked for several non-government organizations in his town.

The Baguilat family has long been involved in Ifugao politics even during the time when it was part of Mt. Province. Baguilat's grandfather was deputy governor of Ifugao in the 1950s.

In an earlier interview with the INQUIRER, Baguilat said he was counting on the spirit of "people power" to get him the votes he needed..

He said the people of Ifugao now have the desire to change and to support politicians who believe in true public service.

"Being a public servant is difficult. You have to sacrifice time, money and social life. But at the end of the day when you feel you have done a good job, the psychic rewards are tremendous. I know that it sounds like a cliché or another political line but I believe in it," said Baguilat, a 36-year-old bachelor.

In Pangasinan, businessman Marcos Cojuangco made history by topping the province's fifth congressional district race, leading behind his rival Raul Lambino by 84,665 votes.

Cojuangco ran under the Nationalist People's Coalition but was adopted by the Lakas-NUCD as its official candidate.

Cojuangco, whose family owns a cement plant in Sison town, said residents in the fifth district are expecting much from him. He said he considered this as a "challenge."

He said he would embark on improving agriculture in his district by introducing modern technology.

In Nueva Ecija, Aurelio Umali of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino scored an upset win over Edward Thomas Joson (Balane), son of incumbent Gov. Tomas Joson III.

A political neophyte, Umali, 35, is a lawyer and formerly deputy commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission.

He is a native of Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija. *Tina Arceo–Dumlao; Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

BAGUILAT

COJUANGCO

Napocor refund to reduce power rates in S. Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—The National Power Corp. (Napocor) has granted a P23-million refund for Southern Mindanao-based power utility firms, electric cooperatives and factories that purchase electricity directly from the state-run firm.

Napocor expects the refund to bring down power rates imposed by the utility firms and rural electric cooperatives here and in the nearby provinces of Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley.

Earl Ferrer, Napocor spokesperson for Southeastern Mindanao, said the refund was in compliance with an order issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo in February to reduce the effective selling rates of electricity.

The reduction of the rate, which was set at 20 centavos per kilowatt-hour, would be reflected in the Purchased Power Cost Adjustment (PPCA) and made available in the form of a credit memorandum for electricity sold in March.

The PPCA is one of the cost-recovery mechanisms used by the Napocor in computing its monthly effective selling rate. It reflects the monthly movements in the cost of power that Napocor buys from independent power producers.

Starting May, Ferrer said the rate reduction would be reflected on the bills issued by power cooperatives and utility firms to consumers.

Adolfo Mirasol, Napocor area manager, said in a statement that the firm already refunded a total of P15.94 million to Davao Light and Power Co., which is owned by the family of former Napocor chair Ernesto Aboitiz.

Mirasol said Napocor also issued a credit memo to Davao Union Cement Corp. amounting to P2.1 million.

The electric cooperatives of Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur and Davao Oriental had been refunded with a total of P5.52 million.

Mirasol said the credit memos would be imposed on top of a Napocor decision to freeze the imposition of the PPCA component of its effective selling rate for February 2001.

The refund should be reflected in the form of power rate reduction for residential end users and other customers of private utilities and rural electric cooperatives, the firm said.

With the adjustment, Napocor said it expected a total power rate reduction of about P45 in the billing statement for a household consuming an average of 200 kwh per month.

Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau

TRIVIA: Although the supreme headship of the Roman Catholic Church is almost entirely dominated by Italians, there have been rare cases of non-Italian cardinals who have assumed the papacy. In the middle ages, there was one Nicholas Breakspeare, who was English and Adrian Florenz Boeyens, who was Dutch. The most recent example is Karol Wojtyla or Pope John Paul II, the first Polish-born Pope.

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2 passenger deaths reported aboard ship

BATANGAS CITY—Two deaths were reported aboard an interisland passenger ship which made an emergency berthing at this city's international pier.

SPO4 Eva Blay Pascua of the city police, confirmed the death of two passengers of the MV Princess of the Pacific, which is owned by Sulpicio Lines, but the Philippine Ports Authority here said only one died.

The ship came from Iligan City and was headed for Manila.

Pascua identified one of the victims as Roberto Gonzales, 60, who had a stomachache allegedly after eating stale food served by the vessel.

A Sulpicio Lines staff member, however, said the old man died of cardiac arrest.

The other fatality was a 6-year-old girl, who Muslim passengers said fell from the stairs of the ship and broke her neck. The passengers could not give the name of the girl.

The ship was carrying at least 2,500 passengers, many of whom suffered from diarrhea and dehydration the other night, the Coast Guard reported yesterday.

"They (Sulpicio staff) fed us stale rice and viand, that's why all of the children passengers are suffering now from diarrhea," passenger Yusop Macalangkim, 40, of Marawi City, said.

"The air-conditioning unit didn't work and the water was salty and fishy. It was like riding in a floating coffin," Macalangkim said.

The allegations were corroborated by other Muslim passengers who had disembarked to proceed to Manila by land and report their grim experience to national television networks.

Macalangkim said the ship had only a single engine and could accommodate only a maximum of 1,000 passengers. There were more than 2,500 passengers aboard, he added.

PPA pier terminal supervisor Lani Reyes said Sulpicio Lines informed her office at 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, that the ship would make an emergency berthing because of strong waves near Fortune Island in Nasugbu town.

"They had to divert to the Batangas City anchorage for the safety of the passengers," Reyes said.

When this correspondent tried to interview PPA and Coast Guard personnel, she was given the runaround.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Pilot in Palawan crash 'lived life to fullest'

ALICIA, Isabela—The remains of one of the pilots of the rescue helicopter that crashed in the mountains of Palawan on Friday arrived in Barangay Rizal here on Tuesday.

Relatives and friends of the late Philippine Air Force Lt. Rizza Simon, 28, the co-pilot of the PAF Sikorsky rescue helicopter that crashed in Palawan, said Simon "lived her life to the fullest."

Simon, daughter of former Alicia Councilor Placido Simon, was among the 13 people killed in two crashes in a mountainous portion of Barangay Manalo in Puerto Princesa City on Friday.

"I hope she is happy where she is now," Simon's father said.

"She died a heroine. We hope that her deeds will be emulated by her peers," another relative said.

Her relatives said Simon was "smart, friendly, disciplined, approachable and very jolly person."

They said Simon's entry into the PAF was "to satisfy her desire to do challenging roles."

"She was not fond of doing routine activities, she likes challenging ones," Marissa Guiab, a family friend, said.

Rizza's remains were scheduled to be flown back to Manila on Thursday. She will be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Aside from Simon, the fatalities in the crash were Capt. Albert Tablada, pilot; Capt. William Lim, Western Command medical officer; Capt. Vicente Castillo; Sgt. Nemesio Bagasina; and Airman First Class Mario Dato.

Bagasina jumped before the helicopter exploded but died at the Adventist Hospital in Puerto Princesa.

Six other victims, who were supposed to be rescued by the personnel aboard the Sikorsky helicopter, were recovered in the first crash involving a Bell helicopter owned by the Jaka group of companies.

Among the fatalities in that crash were Lualhati Reyes, mother of Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes, and Capt. Rene Marucot, Bell helicopter pilot.

Earlier reports said the Bell helicopter crashed about 4:20 p.m. Friday while on its way back to Puerto Princesa from a village in northern Palawan where its passengers monitored the canvassing of votes there. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

4 Pangasinan policemen relieved for bad conduct

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The top police official in the province has relieved four policemen, two of them police directors in their towns, for breach of discipline and various offenses.

Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Pangasinan police director, relieved Chief Insp. Zosimo Fernandez, police chief of Urbiztondo town, and Senior Insp. Crispin Cancino, police chief of nearby Bugallon town, and members of his staff, PO2 Marcos Manangan and PO3 Crisanto Maure.

Bataoil said a drunk Fernandez indiscriminately fired his service gun inside a cockpit arena in Barangay Cawa in Bugallon after the *kristo* (bet collector) approached him to ask if he would like to bet.

Reports said the bet collector addressed Fernandez as "sir" but what the police official heard was "sarge (sergeant)."

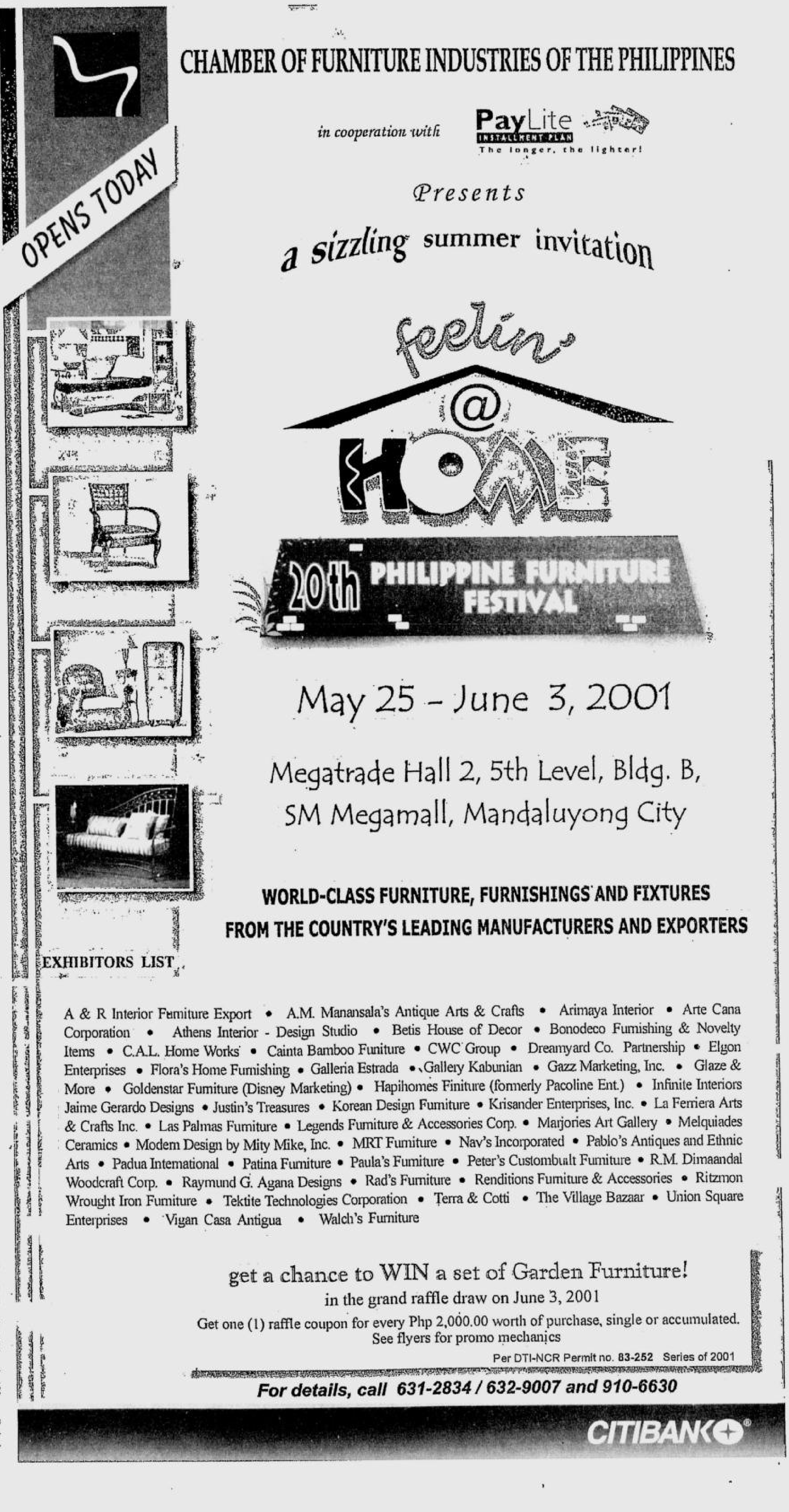
This offended Fernandez, causing him to fire his gun, reports said.

Bataoil said he also had to relieve Cancino after he found the latter's men drunk while on duty.

"I conducted an inspection Monday night at the Bugallon police station when Manangan and Maure arrived from a nearby beer house," he said.

"They were in their uniforms as they were on duty. But instead of manning the station, they were in a beer house," he said.

Bataoil said he had to relieve Cancino because of command responsibility. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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Lakas poll leaders feel abandoned by President

BY ANSELMO ROQUE
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CABANATUAN CITY—Campaign managers of Lakas-NUCD in Nueva Ecija felt abandoned by President Macapagal-Arroyo and top officials of the party during the campaign period.

They said Ms Macapagal did not visit the province during the campaign although she went to other provinces in Central Luzon.

The President originally belonged to Kampi, which affiliated with the Lakas-NUCD.

Former Speaker Jose de Venecia, Lakas-NUCD national chair, did not show up during the campaign in Nueva Ecija to endorse candidates of the party.

The victory caravan of the People Power Coalition, of which Lakas-NUCD is a member, skipped Nueva Ecija during its sorties in the North.

The campaign managers said had they come to Nueva Ecija during the campaign period, it could have boosted the chances of the Lakas-NUCD candidates in Nueva Ecija. Official results showed dismal performance of the ruling party in the province.

"*Parang ipinakain kami sa pating* (We felt we were fed to the whale)," said David Morales, who helped organize coordinators in 16 towns of Nueva Ecija.

All the more painful to the campaigners is the fact that the Lakas-NUCD chair and gubernatorial candidate in the province, Rep. Pacifico Fajardo, is a blood relative of the President.

"*Nakarating siya sa* Tarlac, *sa* Bulacan *at* Pampanga *na katabi ng* Nueva Ecija, *dito sa atin hindi* (She was able to visit Tarlac, Bulacan and Pampanga which are adjacent to Nueva Ecija, but she did not come here)," said another campaigner.

In contrast, the senatorial slate of the Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino held its first provincial sortie here.

Unofficial results indicated that the opposition Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Baláne) captured almost all the provincial and municipal seats in the province.

So far, the winning Lakas-NUCD candidates are those for congressman of the first district and mayors of Palayan and San Jose cities and eight of 27 towns of the province.

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AMONG the election casualties are trees in Baguio City where campaign posters have been nailed. E.V. ESPIRITU

Tree lovers condemn PPC, PnM, local bets

BAGUIO CITY—Baguio loves its trees and has an ordinance protecting every arboreal limb, every leaf, and every bark.

This is why local environmentalists are now asking the Commission on Elections and the national police to crackdown on senatorial candidates from both the administration People Power Coalition and the opposition Puwersa ng Masa for nailing their campaign materials in Baguio's pine trees.

They have also asked the police to tackle local violators, who include incumbent city officials tasked to implement the ordinance.

The ordinance, approved in 1990, imposes a fine of P2,000 and a jail term of 10 days for anybody found damaging any part of a tree in the city. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

CENTRAL LUZON

Police expect surge in 'jueteng' after polls

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Election spending, whether legitimate or otherwise, partly staved off poverty among Central Luzon folk for almost three months.

But with the election period almost over, thousands who found temporary jobs in the campaign machineries of politicians or who lived on the graces of candidates now find themselves idle or with less generous patrons.

Expect them again to rely heavily on jueteng for the quick cash, police sources familiar with the quirks of the illegal numbers game in Central Luzon say.

Jobless

Singers who recorded campaign jingles, drivers who roamed those jeeps with blaring sound system, *dikit* (paste) and *sabit* (hang) boys who glued posters and hung streamers, hired hands who distributed leaflets and sample ballots, cooks, and comedians or bands that entertained in political rallies are all jobless now.

Also out of temporary jobs are secretaries who attended to every whim of voters and community coordinators who either raided the camps of opponents or who prevented the followers from switching camps

While they lived on honest sweat, many others were obsessed with asking for favors from politicians. Often, they queued to ask for money, rice, medicine and tuition money.

Danny (not his real name) made P200 and earned free meals each day he plastered the posters of his congressional candidate.

He said he felt "more stable" being paid this much, although for a brief time

Before the actual campaign period for local candidates began after March 30, he drove a pedicab in the City of San Fernando, earning P80 or P100 daily.

Daily, too, Danny gambled P15 of his earnings on jueteng to try his luck and augment what little money he makes.

"I'll be driving again," he said of the options left to him. "And bet again on jueteng."

Expenses

How much candidates have actually spent for their hired hands or for their entire campaign is not yet known.

Not one candidate in Central Luzon has filed his or her statement of election expenditures since May 15, the day they were supposed to start doing so.

But their disclosures are, as it is widely believed, understated. It is even harder to ascertain how much money they doled out during the campaign period or dispensed with to buy votes.

But various campaign insiders said between 40 and 50 percent of registered voters in an area were paid to ensure a solid lead for a candidate.

The extent of vote-buying depended on the capacity of the opponent camp to command votes, they said.

Surge

Without the moneymaking opportunities that the election offers to the poor, jueteng is expected to surge in their areas.

The police intend to go full-scale in the campaign eradicating jueteng after the polls, according to Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Central Luzon police director. But local governments, which are expected to provide alternative livelihood to those who will be displaced by the fresh crackdown, could not yet focus on the program, he added.

New leaders will be familiarizing with the tasks of governance while those who succeeded in getting fresh terms are also reestablishing directions, Galang said.

But elections or not, jueteng had actually flourished during the entire election period, if reports obtained from the regional police were made as bases

Between Feb 14 and May 18, police reported 404 raids, arrested 1,707 collectors and five financiers, and confiscated bets worth P495,579.85.

At least 104 people were charged with illegal gambling.

From Feb. 18 to March 23 last year, the police launched 33 raids, arrested 286 people and confiscated bets worth P172,447.25.

In those two separate periods, many of the raids and the number of collectors apprehended were noted in Pampanga than in any other provinces and cities in Central Luzon.

Obviously, jueteng does not only have a grassroots base

If operated full-scale and widespread, the racket in Central Luzon's 120 towns and cities directly employs some 47,200 people, Galang said.

Collectors of a jueteng operator in San Fernando agree that jueteng indeed experienced a boom during the election period.

According to a collector, suspected jueteng financier Melchor "Ngo-Ngo" Calung, who ran but lost as councilor of San Fernando, maintained not one but two draws in the morning, afternoon and in the evening since March to fund his campaign.

In Angeles City, which Mayor Carmelo Lazatin declared "jueteng-free," police arrested collectors a few days before the election.

Jueteng also thrived because, as collectors suspected, its operators contributed to the campaign coffers of candidates.

Then, too, the cash that flowed from the candidates enticed the voters to wage bets, one collector said.

"*Balu mu lang balung ating kwalta u ling memye ya ing kapitan* (You know so well they got money because the barangay captain just distributed money)," the collector said.

Jueteng, politics

Galang, like his recent predecessors, has been accused of taking jueteng protection money, an allegation that he said he did "not want to dignify."

Anticipating the new crackdown during the post-election phase, Galang said: "*Kawawa ang pulis sa kampanya.*"

The irony, according to him, is that a major sin like gambling is deemed as a minor offense by the illegal gambling law (Presidential Decree 1602).

For example, nine jueteng operators arrested since February have managed to skirt detention by posting bail.

One collector could only laugh at the planned crackdown.

"The police and the politicians are both benefiting from jueteng. How can they stop it?" the collector said.

Also, how can the police stop jueteng when even suspected jueteng operators or their families have, according to Galang, joined politics "to protect the racket."

"They have good chances of winning because they have money to spend," he told reporters last week.

Mario "Marga" Garcia, who allegedly operates jueteng in Angeles City, has succeeded in his reelection bid for councilor in San Fernando.

Lilia and Dennis Pineda, the wife and son of suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, won as provincial board member in Pampanga's second district and mayor of Lubao, respectively.

Louie "Yakap" Reyes, whose father reportedly used to operate jueteng until Pineda took over the racket in the early 1990s, won a seat in the Angeles City council.

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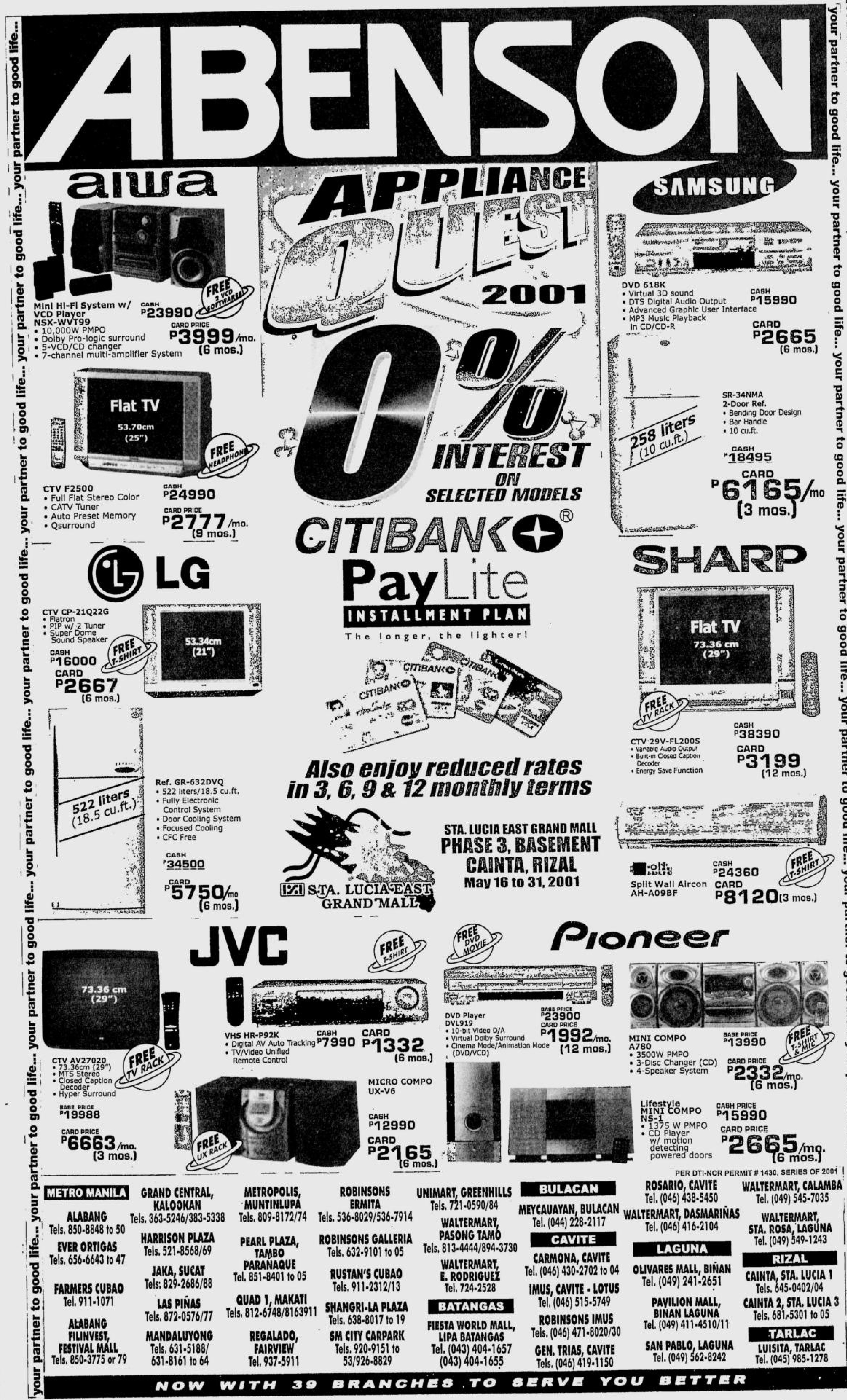

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Macapagal blinks on bungalow

(From page A1)

Protesters have accused Ms Macapagal of striking a secret deal with Estrada supporters like the politically influential Iglesia ni Cristo (INC).

Tiglao denied any deals with the INC or any other pro-Estrada groups.

"There is no such thing as this administration giving in to demands," he said.

But Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the opposite in a news briefing yesterday.

The decision to put Estrada in "new quarters" was a concession granted by the Macapagal administration to the INC, Pimentel revealed.

At the height of the massing of Estrada supporters at Edsa last month, Pimentel and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez visited the INC head, Erdie Manalo, as emissaries of President Macapagal.

"We explained to him the intent of the government to accord all due respects to President Estrada. That he's not going to be demeaned in the government's treatment of him," Pimental said.

Reasons

Tiglao explained that the new quarters for Estrada was not that "urgent."

Also, there had been "a mistake in terminology," Tiglao explained. It was not a bungalow as the Palace had called it initially.

"Actually, it was a bunker surrounded by a moat with a guard tower," Tiglao clarified.

Tiglao cited another reason for the President's order to stop construction. The Armed Forces, which is in charge of the project, had assured the Palace that the annex could be built in two to three weeks should the Sandiganbayan approve Estrada's petition and allow Estrada's detention at the hospital.

"While there is no decision yet, he can stay at the suite," Tiglao said.

Tiglao emphasized that so far, only earthwork has been done at the site which is on the fairway of the VMMC compound.

He said newspaper photos of the site made it appear that the building was already being put up.

"If you've seen the place (Estrada's VMMC suite), it's really a security nightmare. From the suite going out, there are many corridors that's why the idea of a bunker or stockade (was considered)," Tiglao said.

Earthwork

Tiglao explained that the earthwork was required because the original plan was to put a moat around the planned annex.

"The only reason why earthwork proceeded was because some brilliant military officers thought a moat should be built around it as well as a guardhouse which requires a lot of earthwork," he said.

"The security precautions for that annex is so strict they thought a moat and razor barbed wire will be built around it," he added.

The AFP had yet to apply for a building permit because the actual construction has not started.

Security is priority

Tiglao emphasized that Estrada's security was the primary reason why an annex at the hospital should be built.

"The military was being extra careful because from Sta. Rosa (Laguna), either you bring him by helicopter or by land and if you've seen Commonwealth Avenue, you cannot stop the traffic there," he said.

Tiglao said transporting Estrada from Laguna by land would require a convoy of police cars and would require holding up traffic along the congested Edsa.

"In Veterans, you have a hospital and a courtroom. And it's also near Sandiganbayan, Estrada's relatives and lawyers," he added.

Barrage

The President continued to draw severe flak from her Edsa II allies, especially the leftists who have warned of an "avalanche of protests" should Ms Macapagal pursue her building plans.

Church-based organizations like the National Council of Churches of the Philippines, composed of Protestant and non-Catholic religious sects, have issued a strong protest statement.

"It is very revealing that this conciliatory attitude of President Macapagal comes at the heels of People Power III and the unsuccessful 13-0 election campaign," Sharon Rose Duremdez, the council's general secretary, said after consultations with member and associate churches.

Earlier, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines through its social action arm said that special quarters for the jailed Estrada could eventually lead to a presidential pardon.

Militant groups also hit the "soft treatment" of Estrada and his son, Jinggoy. Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo said that when the President announced that her administration would not oppose the petition for house arrest, it pressured the Sandiganbayan "to toe the Palace line."

Flexibility

The leftist Sanlakas denounced Tiglao for saying that providing Estrada a special annex was not special treatment but a "flexible one."

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said he believed that the "flexibility of Malacañang" was a byproduct of a quid-pro-quo arrangement between President Macapagal and the INC.

Ms Macapagal met with Manalo before the May 14 election to seek support for her administration's Senate candidates.

What izs behind the soft-pedaling of Macapagal?" Bayan leader Teddy Casiño asked.

He added that the "accommodation" of Estrada was done at the expense of "what people fought for in Edsa II."

Casiño advised the President to make "firm" decisions and not be afraid of any backlash from opposition forces and Estrada supporters.

"She cannot please everyone," he said. ***With reports from Norman Bordadora, Donna Cueto, Andrea Trinidad-Echavez and Inquirer wires***

Six Puwersa bets fight for last three slots

(From page A1)

Drilon finally overtook Magsaysay, which was down to 5th place.

There was no change among the occupants from the first to the 30th places.

Namfrel's quick count will officially close at 6 p.m. today. However, the Namfrel tabulation for party-list results will continue.

Starting Monday, results of the party-list elections will be released by e-mail or through its website, www.namfrel.org.

Telibert Laoc, Namfrel executive director, said results would be released once a day until June 4.

Namfrel secretary general Guillermo Luz said Namfrel was hoping to count at least 75 to 80 percent of all election returns nationwide by Friday night.

Namfrel's copies of the statement of votes and the COCs were being forwarded to the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants for review.

"This count of Namfrel is based entirely on election returns. Thus, if tampering takes place in the COC, then we may be able to spot it and immediately report this to the Commission on Elections," Luz said.

He said Namfrel did not include in its count unreadable returns like those from Marikina and Pasig where 30 percent of the returns could not be read.

In the Comelec tally, topnotcher Noli de Castro, an independent, further pulled away from the pack with 11,451,964 votes, more than three million votes ahead of Flavier.

Another gainer in yesterday's canvassing was Joker Arroyo, who moved up from seventh to fourth place, pushing Manuel Villar Jr. and Magsaysay down to sixth and seventh places, respectively.

There were no changes in the people occupying the eighth to 13th positions at the end of yesterday's canvassing of 13 COCs from Metro Manila and the regions.

Angara was able to maintain his hold of the No. 9 spot, but he was leading Recto, who remained at No. 10, by less than 50,000 votes. Angara needs more than 230,000 votes to catch up with Francis Pangilinan, who has held on to the eighth position.

The three PnM candidates at the tail end of the Magic 13—Panfilo Lacson, Loi Ejercito, and Gregorio Honasan—are still safe in the 11th to 13th positions. Juan Ponce Enrile, the 14th placer, needs more than 552,286 votes to overtake Honasan.

Canvassed yesterday were the COCs from Parañaque, San Juan, Navotas, Makati City, Kalinga, Bulacan, Bataan, Pangasinan, Camarines Sur, Northern Samar, Western Samar, Negros Oriental, and Bacolod City.

Loi No. 5 in San Juan

In San Juan, hometown of former President Joseph Estrada, Ejercito placed only fifth although the PnM had a 7-5-1 advantage. It was, however, a PPC candidate, Flavier, who took the No. 1 spot, followed by Angara and De Castro.

Bulacan, where PPC's Roberto Pagdanganan was a former governor, voted 7-5-1 for the PnM. Ejercito placed second after De Castro, while Pagdanganan was third.

Navotas, where a big number of protesters, who joined the May 1 siege of Malacañang, came from, gave the PnM a 9-3-1 advantage that even former Estrada presidential assistant Jamby Madrigal entered the Magic 13.

The PPC trounced the PnM in Camarines Sur, 11-1-1, that even Honasan, a Bicolano, placed a poor 14th. Only Angara managed to join the Magic 13.

It was 7-5-1 for the PPC in Makati City, but Arroyo, the present congressman in the city's first district, only placed fourth. De Castro, Flavier and Angara were the first to third placers, respectively.

The PnM had a 7-5-1 edge in Western Samar with its candidates taking the second to sixth spots.

Osmeña was No. 1 in Negros Oriental, where the PnM slate was shut out. De Castro only placed third in the Visayan province.

It was also a 12-1 shut out for the PPC in Bacolod City in Negros Occidental. Drilon, an Ilongo, and Osmeña, a Cebuano, placed first and second, respectively.

Loi first in Bataan

In Bataan, the PnM had an 8-4-1 advantage with Ejercito taking the No. 1 spot. The candidates in the second to ninth places, with the exception of De Castro at third, were all from the PnM. The PPC's Magsaysay, a son of neighboring Zambales province, was 10th.

Pangasinan, home province of Lakas-NUCD stalwarts former President Fidel Ramos and former Speaker Jose de Venecia, gave a 10-2-1 vote for the PPC. Lacson and Honasan made it to the Magic 13.

It was also 10-2-1 for the PPC in Parañaque City where Flavier placed first.

In Northern Samar, where alleged massive cheating was done by the Liberal Party-PnM, the PnM got an 8-4-1 edge with Ejercito getting the No. 1 spot. Only Wigberto Tañada, Villar, Recto and Pangilinan from the PPC were in the Magic 13.

Kalinga voted 9-3-1 for the PPC.

The NBC headed by Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo with the six Comelec commissioners as members declared a recess at past 4 p.m. due to a lack of COCs to canvass.

Benipayo said the NBC was still waiting for the COCs from Taguig, Quezon City, Pateros-Taguig, Abra, Isabela, Nueva Ecija, Quezon Province, Sorsogon, Guimaras, Iloilo City, Cebu, Cebu City, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga City, Cagayan de Oro City, Davao City, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and Basilan.

"Most of these are expected to come in tonight (Thursday)," Benipayo said.

Commissioner Rex Borra said that the close to a million votes from the four provinces of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao—Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi—would be "decisive" considering that only a few thousand votes separate some candidates in the Magic 13.

"A million votes is not just a swing vote but a decisive vote," Borra said.

But Borra admitted that the delay in the arrival of the COCs from the ARMM due to the slow canvassing there was fanning speculations of *dagdag-bawas* (vote padding and shaving).

Harvest day

"You know in this area (ARMM) it is harvest day during the election period," Borra said. "Money is flowing left and right."

Early in the canvassing, former Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez, counsel for Ejercito, threatened to walk out of the proceedings due to the continued canvassing of COCs from provinces where the votes for PPC candidates were allegedly padded.

"This is the last straw. They have not been correcting the manifest errors for the past six days," Rodriguez complained.

Rodriguez said he was withdrawing as counsel for Ejercito in protest of the canvassing of allegedly fraudulent COCs.

"I feel there will be no more real justice here in having the correct canvass taken," he said.

Recto's votes padded

Rodriguez said votes for Recto were padded in Batangas, Sultan Kudarat and Zamboanga del Norte.

He said Recto got 15,000 votes in Palimbang town, Sultan Kudarat, when other PPC candidates, and even De Castro, got only 1,000 to 2,000 votes.

Rodriguez said the COC for Lipa, Batangas, showed Recto getting 46,660 votes but his votes in the provincial COC rose to 55,000. In Zamboanga del Norte, he said a digit was inserted in Recto's votes so that 850 became 3,850.

"Our only request is to open the municipal COCs," Rodriguez said. "If they open it and find out that it's okay, then there's no problem."

The PPC and PnM yesterday agreed to sit down and to talk about the charges of cheating that they hurled against each other before the Comelec.

They also vowed to accept the results of the official Comelec tally and to refrain from engaging in media war so as not to create an impression of political instability abroad.

Dodi Limcaoco, PPC spokesperson, and his PnM counterpart, Crispin Remulla, said their presence in the press conference called by Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion Jr. at the Westin Philippine Plaza showed their willingness to talk peace.

Namfrel officials called the two spokespersons to a truce. ***With reports Mae Lorraine Rafols and Marionne Acabado***

Sandigan: Erap . . .

(From page A1)

earlier said his client should be allowed to enter his plea of not guilty via a live video feed from his suite at the VMMC in Quezon City.

Also citing security considerations, Interior Secretary Jose Lina yesterday said Malacanang was endorsing the Philippine National Police's recommendation that Estrada's arraignment and trial on plunder charges on June 27 be held inside the hospital compound.

Both Estrada and his son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, are undergoing treatment at the hospital for minor ailments.

"The law is clear: During arraignment, the accused must be personally present. Personally means that the accused himself must come here in person . . . not via TV satellite," Nario said.

"We need a Supreme Court resolution allowing hearings outside the Sandiganbayan," he added.

Nario also noted that the proposals of Lina and Fortun had been aired through the media.

"If no formal motion is filed, then the hearings will be held here in the Sandiganbayan. Only if there is a formal motion will the court entertain such an idea," he said.

Nario said Estrada must have a good reason for not attending his arraignment on May 31. Otherwise, he would be cited for contempt.

The Sandiganbayan's fourth division is handling the perjury case against Estrada who allegedly lied about his true net worth in his 1999 Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

In Criminal Case No. 26564 filed by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, Estrada declared a net worth of only P35 million but evidence indicated that he had amassed billion of pesos from jueteng payoffs, tax kickbacks and questionable business deals.

Estrada is the lone accused in the case.

The Sandiganbayan's third division, on the other hand, is handling the plunder case against Estrada, his son and several others.

The same division has yet to make a comment on suggestions that he be arraigned and tried at the military hospital.

The Office of the Ombudsman earlier filed a motion seeking to consolidate the two cases, but the Sandiganbayan's fourth division turned it down.

Fortun said Estrada should be accorded the same privilege as US President Bill Clinton who, during his impeachment trial, was allowed to give his direct testimony to the US Congress through a live video feed from the White House.

For his part, Lina said holding hearings at the Sandiganbayan building near the Batasang Pambansa complex in Quezon City would be a "security nightmare."

Lina said the PNP, the designated custodian of Estrada and his son, had recommended that the trial be held at the VMMC auditorium.

"Moving the former President and his son daily (from the jailhouse to the Sandiganbayan courtroom) would require a lot of security preparations and you know what happened on April 25 to May 1," Lina said, referring to the so-called "Edsa Tres" and the "May Day Mayhem."

He said protecting Estrada and his son was a paramount concern of the Macapagal administration.

Various groups, however, have accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of giving Estrada special treatment just to mollify the opposition.

"If the security aspect is not looked into more minutely, we might be facing a lot more problems," Lina said.

But Sandiganbayan Sheriff Edgardo Urieta said all the security preparations, dubbed "Oplan Papaya," were in place for Estrada's arraignment on May 31.

Under the plan, elite units from the PNP and the Armed Forces would back the security force from the sheriff's office.

Urieta said two armored personnel carriers would be positioned in the vicinity of the anti-graft court.

There will be separate units handling the crowd, media, traffic, evacuation, and even bomb threats.

Also at the Sandiganbayan yesterday, the anti-graft court's fourth division dismissed a defense motion that Desierto and other prosecutors be cited for contempt for their withdrawal of a graft case involving excise taxes against Estrada.

The court said it did not share the perception of the defense panel that the Ombudsman and his deputies committed "grave abuse of discretion" in filing and later withdrawing the case.

Resort raiders on the run

(From page A1)

tional Police) is that this group of men wanted to extort money from the Floirendos (the resort owners)," Lina said in Malacañang at noon yesterday. "(They) refused to give in to the extortion, so this group of men did what they did in retaliation."

He said the PNP report ruled out the Abu Sayyaf extremists as the attackers.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon also said that "bandits" pulled off the attack and that the tourists at Pearl Farm "remain unperturbed."

"Let us be calm about the incident (and) let the authorities do their job," Gordon said.

Premacio said that after the foiled attempt to enter Pearl Farm, the gunmen tried to dock at Barangay San Agustin in Sta. Maria town.

He said they sailed away on learning about the presence of police who had been alerted by the possible entry of armed men into San Agustin.

The gunmen then headed to Barangay Kidapalong in Malita, where they took and later released Eugenio, Dona, Donato Jr., Eleuterio and Reynante, all surnamed Marquez, and their neighbor Lebi Tayong.

Four persons—Hamid Moda, Eden Labane, Okong Labane and Dondon Alimama—are still being held by the gunmen.

The freed hostages said the gunmen, numbering about 21, took them to serve as guides.

Hashim

In Zamboanga City, Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the Southern Command, identified the gunmen's leader as a certain Hashim.

But Servando would not say to what group Hashim belonged.

The Navy Task Force 71 has sealed all possible exit points along the Davao Gulf. Two MG-520 attack helicopters and Huey choppers have also been sent to help in the hunt for the gunmen.

Commander Bernardito Argano, officer in charge of the 8th Coast Guard, said the gunmen's decision to land in Malita could have been an attempt to mislead pursuing troops.

"So what we did was block all possible exit points in case they return to the sea," Argano said.

The gunmen had seized a total of 12 hostages. The first two—Lando Basato and Winnie Duran—were taken from Talicud Island, where the gunmen's bullet-riddled *kumpit* was beached.

Basato and Duran are the skipper and engine operator, respectively, of the 50-passenger M/B Teresita pump boat that the gunmen commandeered and used to go to Malita.

Regional police chief Senior Supt. Eduardo Matillano said Basato and Duran were freed as soon as they landed in Malita.

Police immediately interrogated the two men after they arrived on board their pump boat in Samal around 7:23 Wednesday night.

Matillano declined to give details but said authorities already knew what group the gunmen belonged.

He also said the earlier theory linking the attack to an extortion attempt by a group of bandits appeared to be gaining credence.

General Villanueva said the Abu Sayyaf, which gained international notoriety for the kidnapping of tourists from the Malaysian island resort of Sipadan last year, were "too far away for them to be suspected in the Pearl Farm resort incident."

The Abu Sayyaf is the subject of continuing military operations in Sulu and Basilan.

Villanueva pointed out that the Navy had yet to lift its blockade of the two island-provinces that had been the site of fighting between government troops and the extremists since last year.

He said that based on initial reports submitted by Brigadier Generals Alfonso Dagudag and Roy Kyamko, commanders of the 4th and 6th Infantry Divisions, respectively, the gunmen had robbery as "the sole motive."

Lina said combined AFP and PNP units were "trailing" the gunmen.

"According to the report, they speak the language used by the people of Jolo. At least there are some leads that could eventually result in their identification and arrest," Lina said. "I think we will be able to effect arrests in the next few hours."

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier ordered the immediate arrest of the gunmen, saying the Tuesday attack could again hurt the country's tourism industry.

Sun Tzu

Sen. Loren Legarda, chair of the Senate committee on tourism, and Davao City Representative-elect Prospero Nograles blamed the attack on poor police intelligence work.

"As Sun Tzu said, having intelligence is half the battle won. If the police and the military had better intelligence, and if they were able to pinpoint the group (responsible), then the incident could have been prevented," Legarda said.

Nograles said the government should look into the possibility of auditing the multimillion-peso intelligence funds of both the PNP and the AFP.

But despite the attack, Pearl Farm and hotels in Davao City yesterday continued to enjoy high occupancy.

Arturo Boncato, president of the Davao Tourism Association, said the high-end Marco Polo Davao had 90-percent occupancy yesterday.

He said a 120-member delegation to a conference of the Systems Technology Institute was heading to Pearl Farm for an overnight stay there.

Boncato, however, admitted that some guests at Pearl Farm and other hotels had canceled reservations.

"One thing positive is that there are no major cancellations," he said.

A source at Pearl Farm said the STI delegates had planned to cancel their booking but that the management assured them that things were under control.

Gordon

In a press conference at the Department of Tourism in Manila, Gordon said the gunmen had planned to steal a speedboat docked at Samal to use it in piracy.

He said the boat—supposedly the fastest in the Davao Gulf—was owned by magnate Antonio Floirendo. He did not say if the boat was among those burned by the gunmen.

Gordon said that if the gunmen really wanted to abduct tourists staying at the resort, they should have landed near the guest quarters and not at the berthing area, where security guards were posted.

He said that despite the attack, the resort was fully booked this weekend, with US Embassy official Stephen Malinowsky and several American tourists heading there, too.

But observers view the incident as a public relations disaster for the DOT, which has been striving to promote tourism.

Gordon said tourism declined during the Sulu hostage crisis and after the Metro Manila bombings last year.

He urged the media to stay "sober" and to avoid "speculative reporting" that could send the "wrong signal" to foreign tourists.

"Any unconfirmed report linking the incident to a bigger plot or comparing it to the Sipadan raid would inevitably harm the country's tourism industry," Gordon said. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo, Juliet L. Javellana, and Jerome Aning***

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Paraguya, 69

ADELA Mangalas Paraguya, 69, died on Monday, May 21. Her body lies at the Funeraria Paz in Quezon City. She will be interred at the Himlayang Pilipino in Tandang Sora tomorrow after an 8 a.m. mass at the Funeraria Paz.

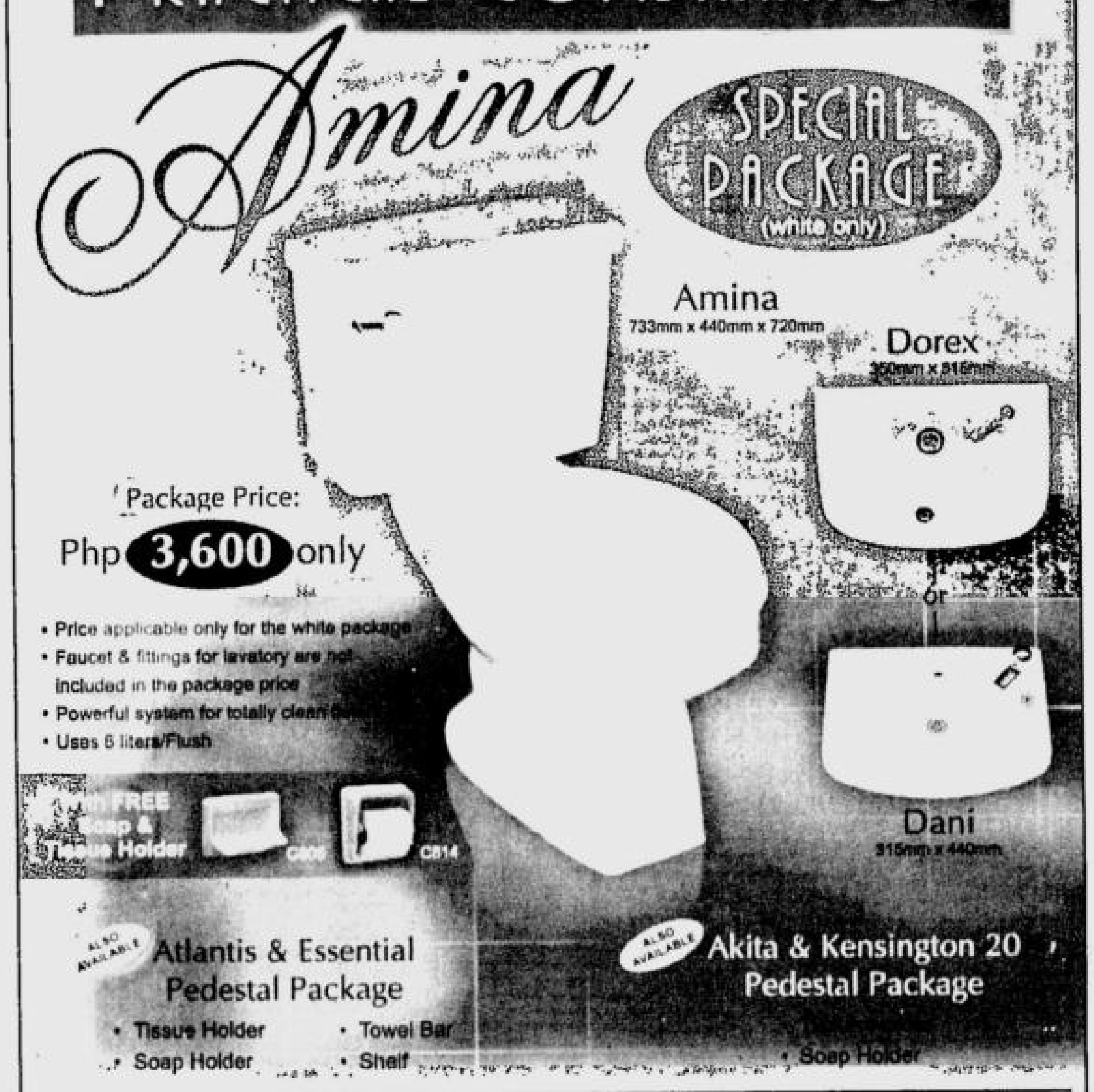
Family of 6 survives plane fire

A FAMILY of six, including an 8-month-old girl, cheated death after their chartered plane caught fire while flying over Isabela yesterday morning.

The pilot, Capt. Arthur Quaoit, managed to land the Cessna 206 plane safely at the Maconacon air strip in Isabela after a fire broke out in the aircraft's lone engine, the Air Transportation Office said.

Quaoit and passengers Dr. Lawrence Caramat, Mitchie, Cynthia, 6-year-old Levi, and 8-month-old Trisha got out of the six-seat plane before it was engulfed by flames.

The Air Transportation Office dispatched a team of investigators to look into the cause of the incident and assess the damage of the aircraft.



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Watercross Challenge tomorrow features Del Rosarios

AN even more exciting 4th 99.5RT FM Watercross Challenge unfolds tomorrow with Wacky del Rosario and Paul del Rosario set to retain separate crowns at the Waterfront Beach Boardwalk in Subic.

Wacky was last year's winningest jet ski rider, bagging both the Runabout 1200 cc and the Open Stock crowns.

Paul captured the Runabout 785 title and is eyeing his third straight national crown in this event supported by Magnolia Ice Tee, Pringles, SBMA, Subic Bay Aqua Sports, Tabata Sports Sandals and Theragran M.

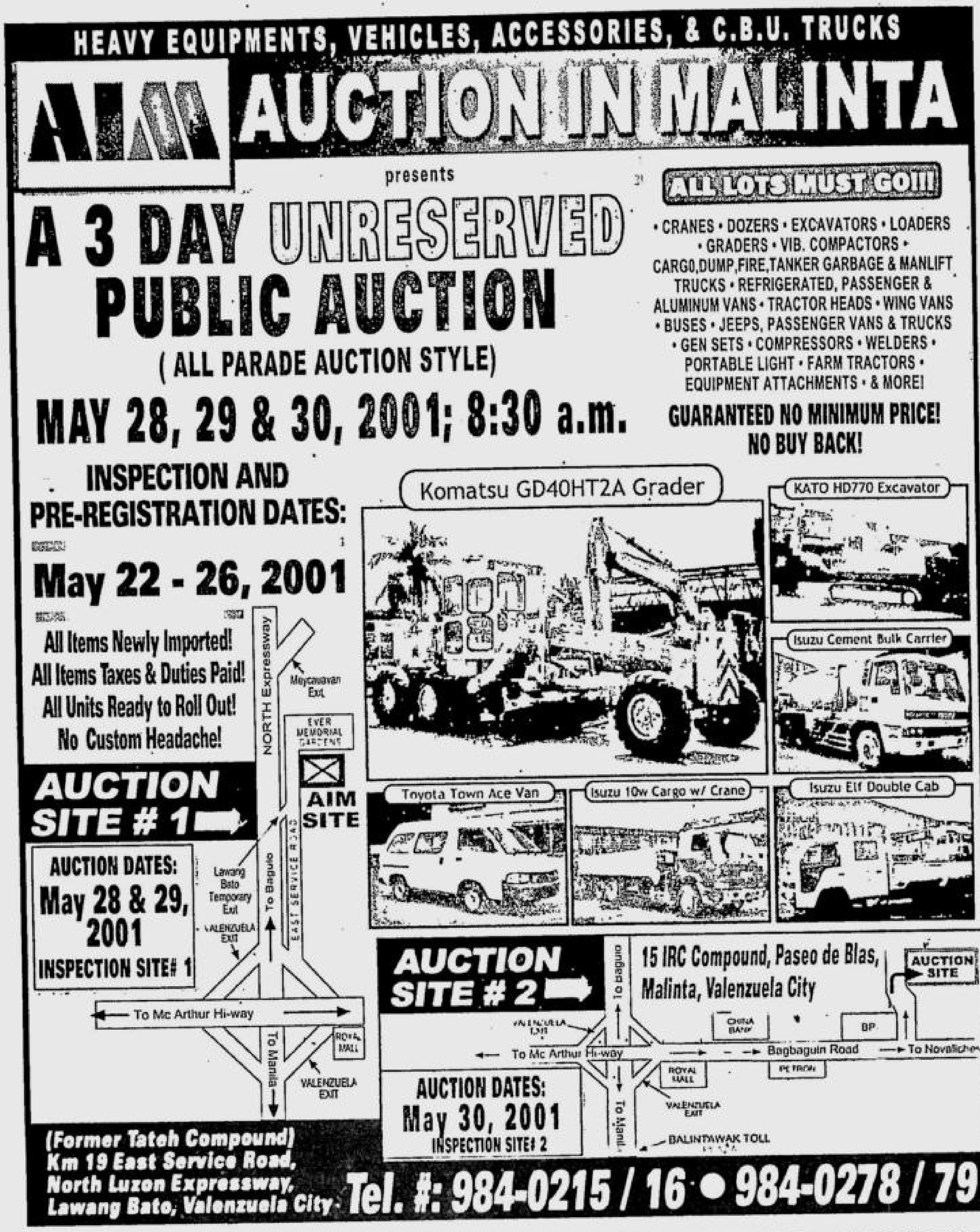
With the event now elevated as part of the 2001 Jet Sports Association of the Philippines (JSAP) Jet Sports Watercross Series, 1998 champion John Dee, veteran Carlo Baltao and BJ Ang and James Baltao are expected to crowd the Del Rosarios.

Equally exciting is the 2001 JSAP Offshore Endurance where jet ski riders test their skills and endurance coasting to and from El Grand Island. The rider with the most number of laps completed in one hour wins the event.

Defending champion Noel Santiago will defend his crown in this event against strong contenders Paul Gruba, Perry Yao, Allan Young and Harley David.

Among the other riders to watch in the whole-day affair are Toto Mantolino, Harley David, Bobby del Rosario, Emille Soriano, Henry Dee and Ben Sun Que.

For further details, call 0917-8992363.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Badminton Open seeks 'Weena Lims'

LIM

BADMINTON president Amelita "Ming" Ramos is pinning her hopes on Kennie Asuncion as the next Amparo "Weena" Lim.

Asuncion's mettle will be tested when she takes part in the JVC Open Badminton Championship which blasts off on June 11 with qualifying events on tap at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

"I'm very optimistic that we will have another Weena Lim in badminton. And I think Kennie could fill Weena's shoes," said Ramos during yesterday's press conference at the Valle Verde Country Club.

Lim, now a commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission, is the first Filipino Olympian in badminton after hurdling the tough international qualifying events for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Ramos said there are more "Weena Lims" in the provinces "but majority of the parents wouldn't allow their children to be isolated from the family."

Nevertheless, Ramos said the Philippine Badminton Association hopes to discover new talents in the event which offers P128,000 in prize money in the elite division.

As a sidelight of the event, the organizers will be bringing in Taufik Hidayat of Indonesia, ranked No. 2 in the world in men's singles. Hidayat will compete in an exhibition match pitting the best players in the country.

Biggest karting event up

THE 2001 Shell Super Karting Championships—the biggest karting competition in the country—enters its crucial stage this Sunday at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite.

The country's top karters, led by top favorite Pepon Marave and last month's winner Jinky Cabalinan, resume their campaign in this prestigious series organized by the Carmona Circuit Phils. and sponsored by Shell, Bridgestone, Coca-Cola, Hot Wheels/Match Box, Nokia and Demvel's Enterprises.

Marave, Cabalinan and Cebu pride Jess Garcia are expected to figure prominently in the centerpiece Formula Super A category.

Lot Tan of Carmona Circuit Phils. said another tight battle is expected in the Formula Super A class "considering there are only few legs left in this annual series regarded as the national karting championships."

Equally exciting is the team competition among Demvel's ARC-Tony Kart and Kart 1.

The other karters to watch are Angelo Barretto, Lee Bumgarner, Bert Neuhof, Christian Sotto, Donovan Yu, Tyson Sy, Mark Bumgarmer and Maxine Ignacio.

For inquiries, visit Carmona Circuit Phils. in Makati City.

Poculan Guimaras motocross champ

GUIMARAS ISLAND—Carl Poculan swept all six races in his categories in another smashing performance for the multi-titled Shell-Yamaha Racing Team in the fourth leg of the National Motocross Super Series 2001: A Race of Guimaras and WHOA at the Guimaras Sports Complex.

Poculan, one of the brightest new stars of the Shell-Yamaha team, completed a grand slam by winning the open production, 125 production and Yamaha 4-stroke in this annual series organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. as part of the annual "Manggahan Festival."

Poculan won over Andot Rubi in the open production, Carlo Leongson in the 125 production and Johnny Garcia in the Yamaha 4-stroke

The rest of the Shell-Yamaha riders also made their presence felt in the other race categories to underscore the team's dominance in this race sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).

"We're very happy. The team achieved its goal of keeping our long winning tradition in motocross," said team captain Ernie Leongson, who also finished second in the pro 125 category behind former Shell-Yamaha campaigner Glen Aguilar.

Leongson, who rose to prominence by winning the national title in 1994, said Shell's racetrack-proven lubricants and motor oil and Yamaha's advanced racing technology enabled the team to emerge as the winningest motocross team for more than 10 years now.

'Jima' solo champ

JIMA-CLEAR CUT of Pampanga's battle-tested Jun and Rudy Jingco mowed down the opposition early yesterday (Thursday), scoring 6-1/2 points and emerging solo champion in the well-attended NCA 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

The perennial bettors' favorite (llamado), Jima-Clear Cut sealed the championship by easily beating Sarangani of James Chiongbian and Bert Matti in fight No. 34 of the day. It was the first big win for the pride of Pampanga after 12 legs of a 15-leg series. Two entries, Scaramouche of Gene Avendaño and PBRJ Binangonan of Ito Yñares and Boyboy Roa, finished joint second with 5-1/2 points while Mulawin Argem Coliseum III of Rep. Rudy Albano and RFP Argem Coliseum of Romy Pamatmat wound up with five points each to finish in the money.

Meanwhile, interest reaches fever pitch in the Cocker of the Year race on Wednesday, May 30, and Friday, June 1, when the National Cockers Association unfolds another NCA 7-Cock Derby at the Big Dome.

Unknown entry grabs 1-shot lead in Tagaytay

UNHERALDED Marvin Dumandan wrested a one-stroke lead in the men's championship class with his rounds of 73 and 75 at the halfway mark of the Titleist-Footjoy National Amateur Circuit at the Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands courses

The young Dumandan, who made it to the tournament proper of last week's Philippine amateurs in his first try, stepped ahead of Cookie La'O and Anthony Fernando with his 148 total after 36 holes.

La'O and Fernando had similar rounds of 71s in the first round and 78s on the second day to be tied at 149 going into the final two rounds of the tourney sponsored by Titleist and Footjoy with the support of Nextel.

It is staged by the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP) as part of a nationwide talent development thrust.

Pasay cockfest lures big field

PROMINENT cocker-sportsmen from the United Cockers Association of the Philippines, National Cockers Association and Metro Manila will converge at Pasay City Cockpit as the "JRS Spectrum 4-Cock Derby" gets going at 7 tonight. More than 60 exciting fights are scheduled.

Engineer Jun Sevilla, one of the most visible derbyists in the national cockfighting scene, will host the event which offers P300,000 to the winners.

Among the invited participants are Esting Teopaco, Peping Cojuangco, Capt. Ben Rodriguez, Danny Ty, Gov. Ito Ynares, Rep. Rudy Albano, Madlambayan brothers, Alan Tan, Patrick Puno, Butch Macasaet, Joey delos Santos, Raymond Velayo, Vic Yu, Ramon Mencenares and Jen Fernando, among others.

"This derby is one of the most awaited cockfests here at PCC," said pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano. For inquiries, call 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Meanwhile, PCC's Anniversary 5-Cock Derby is set for July 19 and July 21.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Eastern Conference Finals – Bucks vs Sixers, Game 2 at 8:30 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on ESPN

NBA Inside Stuff at 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Mastercard Colonial, Tour Highlights at 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Inside the PGA Tour at 12 p.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on Star Sports

LPGA Corning Classic, First Round at 5 p.m. (r – tomorrow at 12:30 a.m.) on ESPN

PGA Kemper Insurance Open, First Round at 11 p.m. on Star Sports

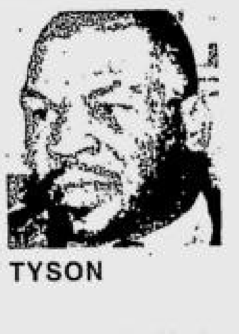
BASEBALL: Wednesday Night Baseball at 10:30 a.m. on ESPN.

SPORTSWATCH

RP pockets tennis gold

BROTHERS James and Oswaldo Dumoran pocketed the gold in the boys lawn tennis team competitions in Darwin, Australia. With the tennis gold, the Philippines increased its medal haul to 4 golds and 6 silvers and stayed in the Top 10 overall. Australia continued to hold sway over the rest of the 25-nation cast with 219 golds, 200 silvers and 165 bronzes. The rest of the Top 10 are Malaysia (22-12-13), New Zealand (9-8-5), Vietnam (9-5-4), New Caledonia (9-5-3), Papua New Guinea (8-12-9), Macau (8-11-10), Thailand (5-5-3), Guam (5-2-7) and China (4-2-5).

Tyson-Lewis fight still possible


TYSON

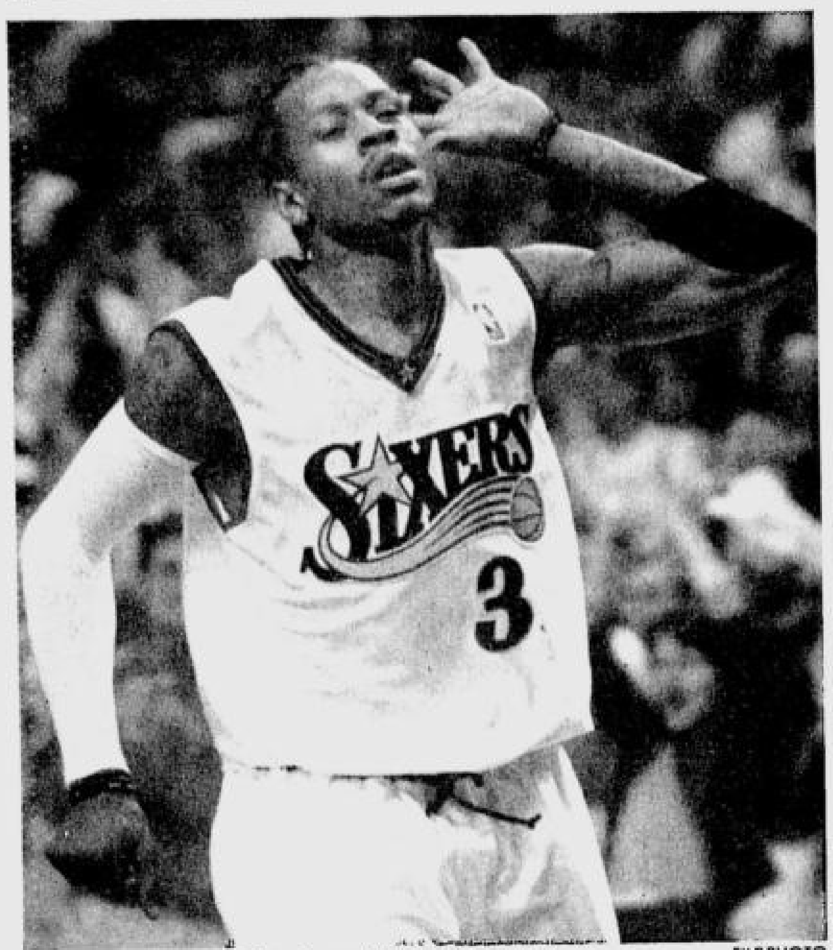
NEW YORK—A fight between Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis without a title at stake is possible. Such a fight is being considered by Showtime, contracted with Tyson, and HBO, which has a deal with Lewis. "Yes, he would consider fighting Lewis without a title at stake," Shelly Finkel, Tyson's adviser, said yesterday. As for negotiations between the two cable networks, Finkel said, "They have discussed it, but everything depends on June 11." A trial on two separate boxing-related lawsuits is schedule to begin in New York on June 11. *AP*

Gomez nears chess title

WITH the crown just two games away, John Paul Gomez protected his lead in the Under-20 category yesterday by blanking Julius Carman in Round 7 of the National Age Group Chess Championships. Gomez, an incoming junior at De La Salle-Zobel, took the route of a Sicilian Najdorf starting with an early simplification of the pieces. The second series of exchanges merited him a bishop up versus Carman's 2 rooks and lone bishop: Seeing that he was about to lose one of his rooks if he forced the issue, No. 21 seed Carman decided to resign after Gomez's 25th move.

Haagen Dazs golf June 1

A FORD Expedition will be the hole-in-one prize in the Haagen-Dazs Golf Invitational on June 1 at Wack Wack West. The world-famous ice cream will play host to the nation's top executives of food, retail, and service industries, airline country managers, hotel executives and media personalities, among others. The managing directors and other senior executives representing the Haagen-Dazs and Pillsbury Asia-Pacific markets (Australia, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea, and Hong Kong) are also expected to play in the one-day event. Aside from Haagen-Dazs products, attractive merchandise are up for grabs in the raffle during the awarding ceremonies.



ALLEN IVERSON: Unstoppable Sixer. FILE PHOTO

GAME 2 TODAY

Bucks coach raps 76ers

PHILADELPHIA—George Karl made it clear he isn't concerned about Dikembe Mutombo. The Milwaukee Bucks coach isn't impressed by the Philadelphia 76ers' defense either.

One day after the Sixers beat Milwaukee, 93-85, in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals, Karl wasn't about to give Philadelphia any credit.

"Philly has an amazing ability to foul a lot and never get called for it," Karl said Wednesday. "They are the best slashing and rippering team in the league. They have a great defensive reputation, but I wish they would have to earn it.

"Without (injured forward George) Lynch, they're not as great defensively as they were and I still think the referees think they're a great defensive team. They're not great defensively and they foul a lot."

Sixers guard Eric Snow simply brushed aside the comments the day before Game 2 today of the best-of-seven series.

"Get used to it," Snow said after Wednesday's practice. "He's going to say off-the-wall stuff the whole series. You just have to know him. You can't read into it or buy it. The main thing is he respects us."

Mutombo isn't so sure about the respect part. Before the series, Karl said the 2.19-meter (7-foot-2) center wouldn't impact his team and called him "irrelevant."

After Mutombo scored 15 points, grabbed 18 rebounds and blocked four shots Tuesday night, Karl didn't change his opinion.

"Mutombo's influence is more on the offensive boards than on the defensive and our problem wasn't Mutombo, it was our shot selection," Karl said. "I have tremendous respect for Mutombo. We don't go down there (inside) very much. So is he as much a concern to us as he is to Shaq (O'Neal) or (Tim) Duncan? No."

RACING TIPS

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Race 3—1. Crystal Horizon 2. Sunflower 3. Mega Money 4. Puzzling Friend

Race 4—1. Speed Charm 2. Silver Dollar 3. Silver Angel 4. Golden Figure

Race 5—1. Darth Vader 2. Grand Prize 3. Sham Sham 4. Fortunate

Race 6—1. Hercules 2. Black Force 3. Party Princess 4. Bemedalled Ruler

Race 7—1. Notable 2. Inner Wheeler 3. Dragon Lover

Race 8—1. Gemstone 2. Thunder Fire 3. Never Mine 4. Green Buck

Race 9—1. Tellmetonight 2. Prince Armstrong 3. Rose in Bloom 4. Baptism of Fire

Lapore reaches q'finals

FOURTH seed Jesus Lapore of the Philippine Army marched into the men's singles quarterfinals following a 7-5, 7-5 victory over No. 14 Cris Cuarto yesterday in the P120,000 TMS Shipping Agency National Open Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Lapore, losing finalist in the Bacolod Open last week, will meet sixth seed Joseph Victorino, who scored a 7-5, 6-3 win over No. 11 Ronald Paz.

Top seed Adelo Abadia, No. 2 Johnny Arcilla and No. 3 Rolando Rule Jr. also won their respective fourth-round matches in this event sponsored by PSC and Dunlop ball.

Abadia, champion in Bacolod and Mandaue, defeated No. 16 Jaime Solon, 6-4, 6-1, to advance against No. 7 Michael Mora III, a 6-4, 6-4 winner over No. 9 Pop Sabandon.

Arcilla, who saw action in two Futures event in China two weeks ago, outclassed No. 15 Roland Kraut, 6-1, 6-0, to advance against No. 8 Nino Salvado, who rallied past No. 10 Antonio Sagansay.

De Guzman trounces Licayan in age group tennis

TOP seed Ian de Guzman marched into the boys' 18-under finals via a 6-4, 6-4 win over Ricardo Licayan yesterday in the Head-Penn Age Group Tennis Championships in Cagayan de Oro City.

De Guzman will meet No. 4 Janjie Soquino, who scored a 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 reversal over No. 2 John Rey Moreno.

Soquino also reached the 16-under finals after posting a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Gerry Huyo-A. He will face No. 2 Carlo Estrella, a 6-3, 6-4 winner over Lot Correos.

In other matches, No. 3 Jordan Cimafranca upset Ed Angelo Diez, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, to advance against Mikhail Don Patria in the boys' 14-under finals. Patria ousted No. 2 Jessie Limbo, 7-5, 7-5.

Seles ousted

MADRID, Spain—Top seed Monica Seles was knocked from the WTA Spanish Open in her opening game Wednesday, losing in three sets to Rossana de los Rios of Paraguay.

Don't count Parica out

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

"I DON'T want them to forget about me" was the clear message of comebacking Jose "Amang" Parica, the first player from the Philippines to dominate the billiards scene many years ago.

Now living permanently in the Untied States, the diminutive Parica made his stately presence felt last Sunday (in Manila) when he barged into the finals of the Billiards Congress of America open 9-Ball Championship in Las Vegas where 128 topflight pool pros around the world competed.

And although Parica lost, 5-7, to Corey Deuel, one of the strongest young talents in the Pro Billiards Tour, it is worth mentioning that the US-based Filipino was the only unbeaten player after five straight days, proof enough that Parica—despite a long layoff—is still going strong when ranged against world-class opposition.

A true-blue Manileño, Parica was the country's No. 1 pool player before Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante entered the picture. A holder of an associate degree in engineering from Mapua Tech, Parica first broke into billiards prominence when he won the Philippine Open 8-Ball Championship in 1979. He later lined his pockets with victories in Japan, Taiwan and the Untied States.

An original member of the touted Philippine-Puyat Sports Team bankrolled by brothers Popit and Putch Puyat, Parica played alongside Reyes, Bustamante, Leonardo Andam and Rodolfo Luat in a highly successful American campaign for nearly two decades.

In 1997, Parica did the country proud when he was named the world's No. 1 billiards player, winning the year-round, seven-leg Camel Championship Tour and the bonus prize of $50,000. As if to legitimize this honor early, he beat none other than Bata Reyes, undoubtedly one of the greatest players of all time, in the Legends of 9-Ball tournament in Los Angeles in 1997, the opening leg of the annual circuit.

Recalling Parica's upset victory over Reyes, Dave Thomson of "Billiards Digest" wrote: "Parica was clearly the underdog in the finale (Most anybody is when playing Reyes.) But Reyes was in error mode, allowing Parica too many turns to the table, of which he made great use. Partly it was Parica's break that led him to the win. It seemed to send the 9 (ball) consistently toward the corner pocket, needing only a simple run to combo or carom it in. He would later cite Luat (Rodolfo) as being influential in strengthening his break. "I noticed we are about the same size, and yet, he has so much power and accuracy," Parica said. "He showed me what he was doing and it worked for me too."

Resilient and resolute, Parica is a player to watch in the coming days. Believe me.

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Tiny's giant effort

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I DON'T know where we'll go from here. I mean, is there really wisdom behind Tiny Literal's move to bring his case to court? (See banner story.)

Tiny's TRO asking the court to stop the June 7 election of officers of the Basketball Association of the Philippines will be heard today at the Manila sala of Judge Artemio Tipon.

Good luck, Tiny.

The Ateneo Hall of Famer has claimed the presidency of the Basketball Association of the Philippines in an election held by a supposed breakaway group hostile to Freddie Jalasco, the incumbent BAP head, some months back

But the Philippine Olympic Committee refused to recognize Tiny's election. The BAP labeled the election illegal, saying it was held not in accordance with the association's Constitution.

Tiny ignored the POC and went on to capture the BAP offices. Literally. Tiny next staged an Asean cagefest, which produced wondrous results. Cheers to Tiny's leadership qualities. You stage an event while you are under fire, why that's big deal. Emerging victorious from that makes you even more of a hero.

But now comes Tiny's next fight. Not peanuts, I tell you.

Will Tiny become giant again and turn the tables on both the BAP and POC?

Hard to tell, really.

But then, this question begging for an answer: Tiny had no recourse but to seek court intervention because he felt he was going to lose his post on June 7?

Only Tiny can provide the answer.

But I'll not force him to give an answer. To many, what matters now is the court's decision. What interests me now though is how the court will handle the case.

It pains me to say that any verdict will not matter anymore. Any sporting issue that gets decided in court diminishes the luster a bit of one of the most sacred words in sports: sportsmanship.

JUNE 7 POLLS

Literal files TRO vs BAP

BY JUNE NAVARRO

QUINTELIANO "Tiny" Literal has filed a temporary restraining order before a Manila court seeking to stop the Basketball Association of the Philippines' elections scheduled for June 7.

Naming BAP acting president Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat, secretary general Nic Jorge and Freddie Jalasco as respondents, the TRO was lodged before Branch 46 of the Manila Regional Trial Court presided by Judge Artemio Tipon.

Also included in the petition were the Philippine Olympic Committee executive board members led by its president, Celso Dayrit.

The preliminary hearing will be held today, with lawyer Bonifacio Alentajan representing Literal's group.

LITERAL

Literal had claimed ownership of the post in elections his breakaway group held a while back.

But the POC declared Literal's election null and void.

In its directive to the BAP, the POC told the association to hold another election before June 30.

The electorate, the Olympic body said, should be composed of members who installed Freddie Jalasco as BAP president in February 2001.

Jalasco took a leave of absence from his BAP chores, leaving Puyat to take over at the helm.

Last month, Puyat notified the BAP electorate about the elections in compliance with the POC directive and in keeping with the BAP constitution and bylaws.

The venue of the exercise will be at the penthouse of the Manila Bank building in Makati City, a place not acceptable to Literal.

Puyat said the outcome of the elections would be final.

Hapee edges Ateneo, stays in the running

BY DENNIS EROA

GAMES TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
9:00 a.m.—Spring Oil vs Whiz
10:45 a.m.—Gringo-Konica vs NU
12:30 p.m.—Regent vs Assumption
2:15 p.m.—UP vs Boysen-MLQU

MARK Saquilayan and Cyrus Baguio conspired as Hapee Toothpaste repulsed Ateneo-Pioneer, 72-69, to keep its semifinals hopes alive in the PBL Chairman's Cup last night at the Makati Coliseum.

Saquilayan and Baguio combined for 36 points, 17 of them in the second half, as the Sparklers moved to within a win of forcing a playoff for a semis slot against Group B leader PharmaQuick. Hapee winds up its quarterfinals campaign when it goes up against Osaka on May 31.

Earlier, Osaka Iridology finally entered the win-column after nine straight setbacks with a 64-53 triumph over slumping Montaña Pawnshop.

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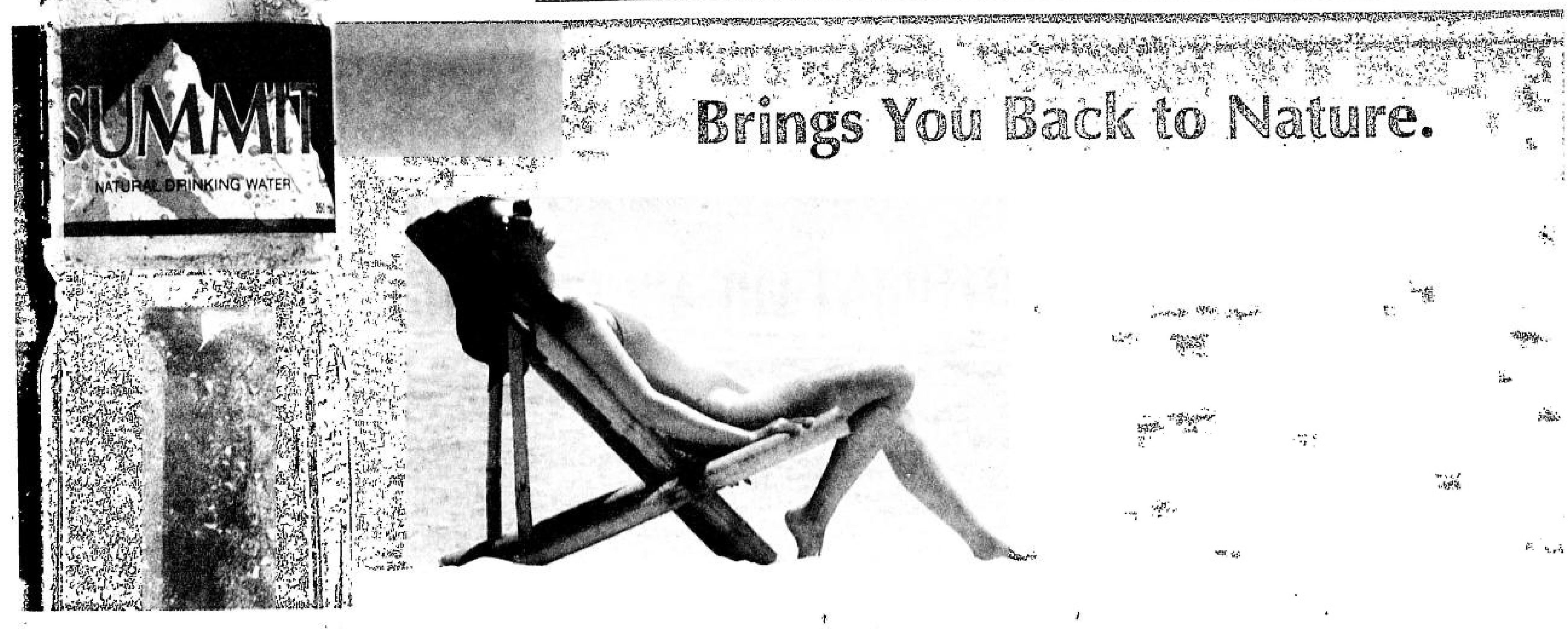

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Rep. Jose Mari Gonzalez arrested

By Dave M. Veridiano

POLICE yesterday arrested outgoing San Juan Rep. Jose Mari Gonzalez in connection with his slapping of the sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives at the start of the impeachment trial of then-President Estrada in November 2000.

Members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group served the arrest warrant on Gonzalez at his house on CM Recto Street in Barangay Addition Hills, San Juan at about 3:30 p.m.

Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court Judge Cesar Untallan issued the warrant after he found prima facie evidence in the case of slander by deeds filed by retired Gen. Bayani Fabic, then the House sergeant-at-arms, against the San Juan congressman.

REP. JOSE/ A26

Valenzuela police deputy chief slain

By Louie Jon Sanchez and Christian Esguerra

THE DEPUTY police chief of Valenzuela City was killed Wednesday night in a bus robbery on the North Luzon Expressway.

Supt. Eugenio Casalme, 52, was on his way home to San Fernando, Pampanga when armed robbers shot him dead on board an Aladin Transit bus (BVL-898) about 8 p.m., police said.

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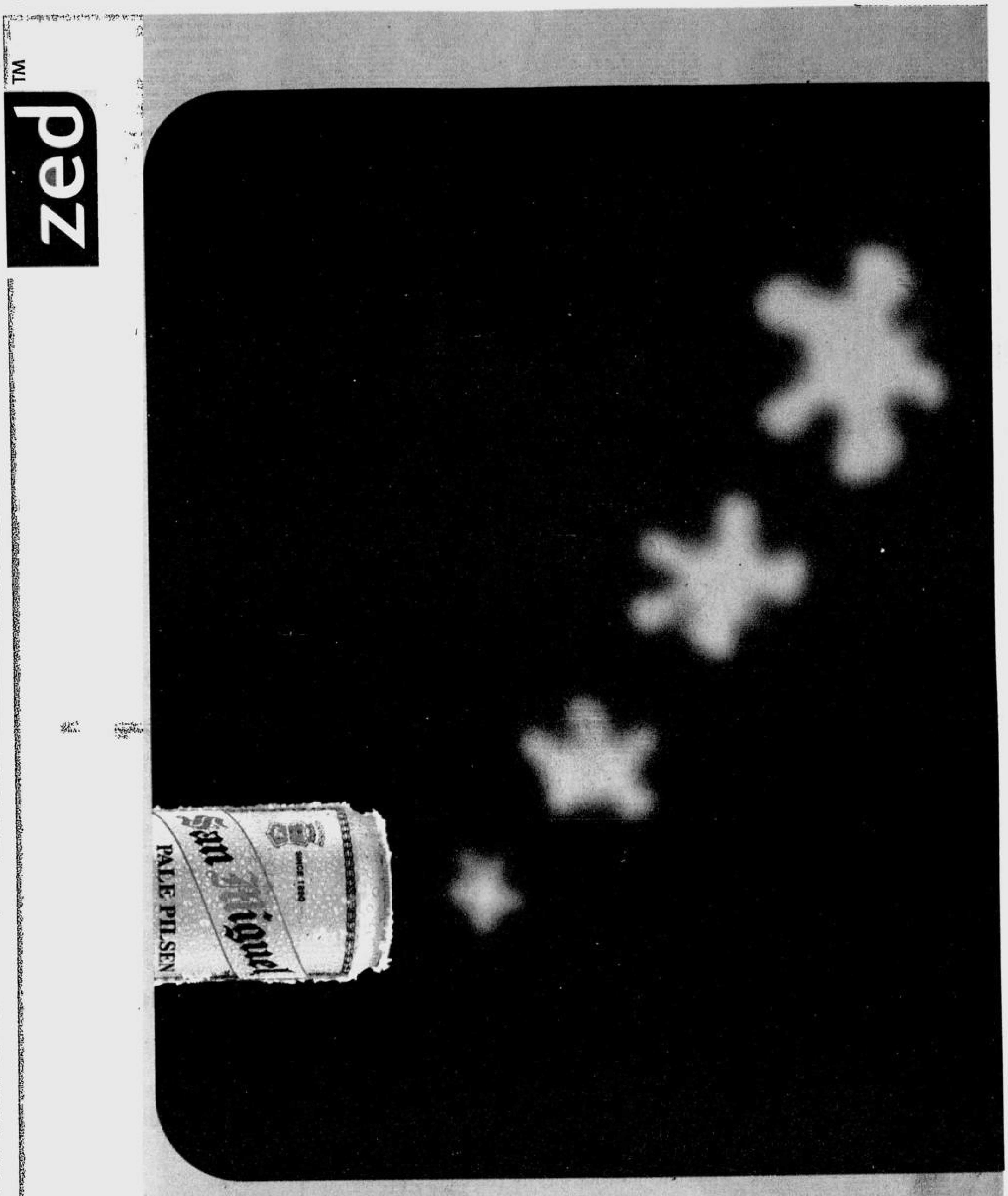

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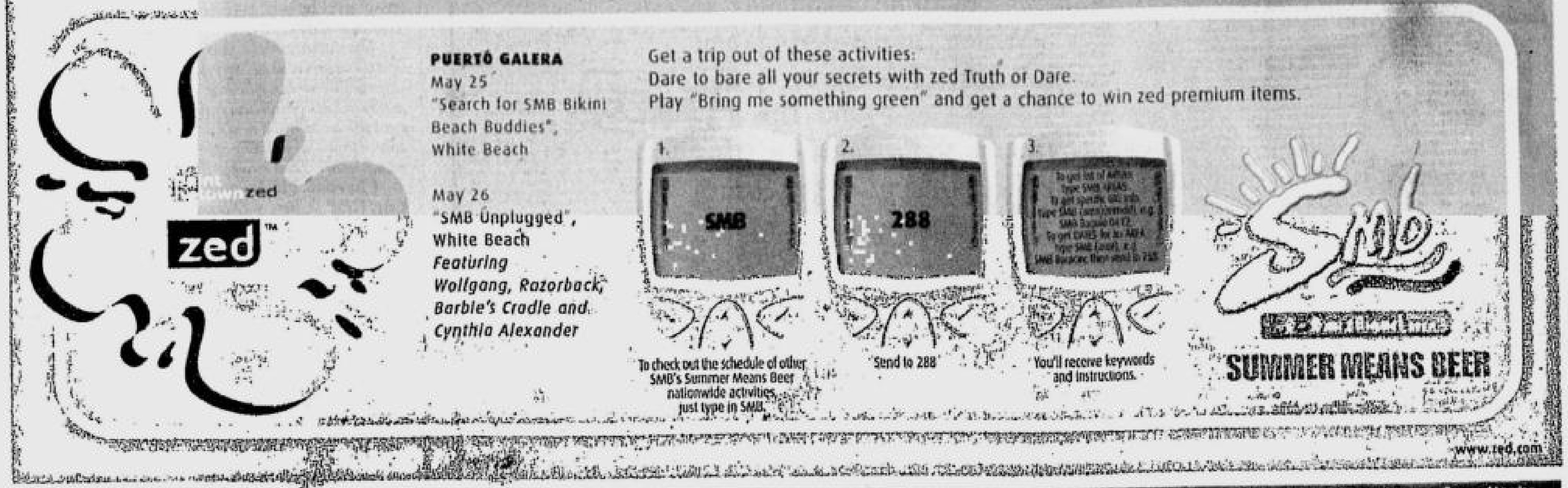

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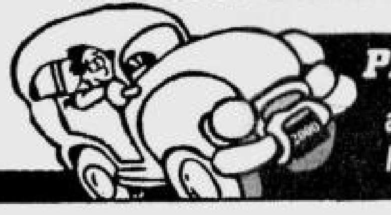

Five wounded in Tondo gunfight

By Jerome Aning

THREE policemen and two civilians, including a one-year-old girl, were injured during a gun battle between two groups of lawmen in Tondo, Manila late Wednesday night.

Seriously wounded in the gunfight were PO1 Ernesto Cing, 39, of the Western Police District's community relations division, and his civilian brother Renato, 41. They were hit in different parts of the body and are confined at the Metropolitan Hospital.

A stray bullet hit the child, Ira Sheen Siasat, in the buttocks and pierced her liver, police said. She is in critical condition at the Mary Johnston Hospital.

The two other policemen, Ching's nephew and WPD Station 5 member PO2 Manolo del Rosario, 32, and PO1 Efren Bagapuro, 25, of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force, were hit in the left knee and right shoulder, respectively.

Bagapuro and nine other SAF agents detailed to the WPD Station 2 in Tondo were arrested after the shooting.

They were identified as Police Officers 1 Rommel Angeles, 25; Maynard Mercado, 25; Freddie Barrientos, 23; Ferdinand Ibarra, 23; Tanacio Lisalis, 25; Marlon Meneses, 29; Ferdinand Manolo, 22; Dennis Wilson Macabadbad, 24; and Jose Christopher Abbas.

The SAF agents were yesterday subjected to paraffin tests and their service firearms to ballistic examination.

Chief Insp. Eduardo Villena, WPD general assignments head, said the SAF agents had just attended the birthday party of one of their colleagues on Varona Street when the shooting happened.

Several residents told police that several of the SAF agents earlier poked their guns at and slapped barangay *tanod* members who accosted them for being rowdy.

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Columnist, Recipes for Learning
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"Values of the Global Pinoy"
by Ernie O. Cecilia
Writer, People at Work and
Author of the career books
"How to Get a Job - Tips 2" and
"How to Keep Your Job- Tips 3"
May 30, 2001 (Wednesday)
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It's Spanish wine vs Pinoy 'patumbahan'

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

A GENTLEMAN heir to a great grape empire in Spain came to Manila on May 14, election day, to restate the deathless tenet that drinking is mainly for pleasure.

Good brandy must be sipped slowly, Don Miguel Torres, the visitor, told dinner guests at Villa Escudero, where the status gods of Quezon and San Pablo City gathered for the regal feast in his honor last week.

Don Miguel, 59, was here also to strengthen business ties and to thank the local community for patronizing their products.

He was, however, amazed upon being told that the greatness of wine may not work in a poor country like ours where daily wage-earners, the *masa*, turn to cheap alcoholic drinks to erase physical and spiritual pains.

***

The raw information was offered by Don Ado Escudero, on whose elite estate, Villa Escudero in Tiaong, the special reception was held.

While the Spaniards have their grand *tertulias*, the after-dinner rounds of great spirits, Don Ado told the special guest that, here at home, it's mainly *patumbahan* (drinking to death) in practically every available nook of poor, drab villages.

The way Don Ado tried to explain, Torres brandy will never upstage Ginebra San Miguel, the outstanding poor Pinoy's favorite, or even *lambanog*, the pride of Quezon, in the local wine market.

Don Miguel tried to pronounce the word *"patumbahan"* as though he was gurgling a stiff shot of mouthwash. His amused tongue rejected the hard native vowels.

Half-succeeding, he, however, graciously laughed off the issue and instead thanked his hosts.

***

Yes, selling outstanding wine and brandy in a poor country where workers could hardly afford their cheap rum or gin is not unlike putting up a bakery in a place where the rice-eating population cannot afford bread.

Most Filipinos do it fast: They never sip, they just slug their drink. The faster the better to forget the daily problems and to ease the tough toils of the day.

The raw information could not, however, distract Don Miguel from explaining how they always take great pains in perfecting their products: grapes raised and harvested in exclusive plots blessed with almost perfect climate and temperature, constant research and upgrading, mainly in the ageing of the spirits.

It's indeed a no-win situation for the visitor, based on the intangibles of the *patumbahan* craze hereabouts.

But the local handlers of the Torres products, ATR World's Best Wines & Spirits, claimed there's no exaggeration in the market reports that the special Spanish brandy brand has registered 200 percent growth in the past year alone.

***

Of course, Don Miguel is not about to distribute his products for free if just to change and convert the local market; although the local dealers swore the Torres empire doesn't register any significant financial profit in its Philippine distribution process.

Just the same, Miguel Torres, last seen, appeared confident enough to let his wines and brandy speak for themselves.

The idea is to turn every customer into a friend, the visitor stressed.

He appeared happy enough that they have been accepted here.

In thanksgiving, he decided to put up a foundation that will oversee the establishment of an orphanage to house, feed, educate and train (for future employment) street children in San Pablo.

"We owe this much to the Philippines," Don Miguel remarked before departing. "My country should be showing more concern for your country."

He admitted that Spain had indeed committed some horrible deeds here in the past. He said he's looking forward to reading Rizal's "Noli."

***

(APOLOGY: You can't please everybody, Go Teng Kok, president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, explained. Go was on the phone early Wednesday, the day this column asked him to explain why athletes who competed in last week's National Open Track and Field championship were made to sleep on the concrete pavement immediately outside the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Go said the athletes were actually booked to use the air-conditioned Ninoy Aquino Stadium, but the place was used by the Comelec for the canvassing of votes. "We had been doing that, using the Ninoy Aquino Stadium, in the past, but we could not do anything this year," Go said. "I always try to do my best. Sorry if I have displeased other people.")

Rep. Jose Mari Gonzalez ...

(From page A25)

Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, CIDG director, said Gonzalez "was somewhat confused but was very cooperative when a warrant for his arrest was presented to him."

Gonzalez was taken to CIDG headquarters in Camp Crame, where he was booked, subjected to a thorough medical check-up and his mug shot was taken.

Shortly after, Gonzalez was released when he posted bail of P6,000.

On Nov. 13, then House Speaker Manuel Villar quickly read through the impeachment resolution against Estrada, which caused an uproar in Congress.

Gonzalez, who was then standing below the podium, slapped Fabic, who was trying to pacify other solons and keeping them from occupying the podium.

The slapping incident was aired on television nationwide.

Gonzalez later issued a public apology and personally asked Fabic for forgiveness, claiming he was only carried away by his emotion.

Fabic accepted the apology, but said he would pursue the filing of charges against Gonzalez.

Fabic yesterday afternoon personally delivered the warrant of arrest for Gonzalez to Supt. Gualberto, who in turn, ordered Supt. Gilbert Sosa to serve it.

Gonzalez is also facing other charges in connection with the arrest of 68 armed men who allegedly worked for him during his campaign.

The 68 men, alleged members of the Guardians Brotherhood, were arrested in San Juan on the eve of the May 14 elections.

Police said the "armed goons" admitted during interrogation in Camp Crame that Gonzalez hired them to secure election precincts in San Juan.

Valenzuela police deputy ...

(From page A25)

As the bus, which was full of passengers, was approaching the Valenzuela exit of the expressway, the armed men, who had boarded at the Balintawak bus terminal, took out their weapons and announced the heist, investigators said.

Armed with a grenade, a .45-caliber pistol, and a knife, the robbers took the cash and valuables of passengers, police said.

When the bus reached the Bocaue, Bulacan exit of the expressway, one of the robbers shot Casalme in the back of the head.

Authorities are trying to find out if Casalme tried to resist, which would explain why the robbers killed him, said Insp. Salvador dela Cruz of the Valenzuela Police.

Police also suspected Casalme was shot when the robbers recognized his pants as police uniform.

The robbers alighted in San Simon, Pampanga with their loot and Casalme's service firearm.

Casalme was taken to the Jose B. Lingad Hospital in San Fernando, but he died on the way, police said.

Casalme had been 28 years in the service. Last year, he was appointed deputy police chief of Valenzuela. He was due to retire in 2005.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, May 25, 2001
6th Week of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 18:9-18**
Gospel: **Jn 16:20-23**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. A woman in childbirth is in distress because her time is at hand. But after the child is born, she no longer remembers her suffering because of such great joy: a human being is born into the world.

You feel sorrowful now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice. And no one will take your joy from you. When that day comes you will not ask me anything. Truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my Name, he will give you."

Commentary:

The coming of the messianic times is compared to the birthpangs of a woman who is in labor to deliver a new infant to the world. This is the law of life. Nobody appreciates what one has not struggled for. Once the result of such struggle is obtained, its pains and hassles are seen in proper perspective. Thus, it is important for us to have a holistic view of our lives. Our life purpose has a supreme importance in helping us face life vicissitudes. Jesus had always his Father in mind-heart. That is why, the rest matter only within that perspective.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Credibility of witness—It is well settled that the credibility of the witnesses is best left to the determination of the trial court because the latter is in an advantageous position to determine the demeanor of the witnesses while testifying. As a general rule, appellate courts accord the trial court's evaluation of the testimony of the witnesses with great respect and finality in the absence of any indication that it overlooked certain facts or circumstances of weight and influence, which if considered would alter the result of the case. In this case no reason exists to justify the departure from this rule. The trial court has found that the eyewitnesses testified in a "straightforward, credible and unbiased" manner. Our own assessment of their testimonies reflected in the transcript of the stenographic notes thereof convince us of their credibility. [Citations omitted.] [Chief Justice Davide, Jr., People v. Sualog, G.R. No. 134310, November 15, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

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Gov't inaction 'ultimate insult,' says slain man's mom

By Leila Salaverria

EVEN after police have admitted their mistake in gunning down Fernando Lozada and Marian Uson during a chase in Quezon City, the family and friends of the victims still have to hear a word from the government.

Eusebia Lozada, the mother of the slain chief steward of New World Hotel, said on Wednesday that the government's inaction and silence was the "ultimate insult."

She also condemned the way police carried out "legitimate operations." In a statement, Eusebia said that even when the policemen realized Lozada was not the one they were looking for, they still killed him.

"If this is the way they do things, then I fear for their real targets," Eusebia said of police. "*Nakakatakot ang mga pulis natin* (The police are terrifying)!" Intelligence chief Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya had admitted that Lozada's killing on May 17 was a case of "mistaken identity."

Fernando was killed when members of the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group peppered his blue Mitsubishi Lancer with bullets after they mistook it for the car of the kidnappers they were chasing.

In the car with Fernando were his daughter Clarissa, 17, and a family friend, Marian Uson, 18. Marian died on Sunday from a gunshot wound in the head. Clarissa survived the attack, but is said to be receiving death threats.

The grieving mother said she wants nothing but justice for her son, whom she described as "a very kind and gentle person."

"He was the driver of those who don't drive, his car was at the service of those who don't have one," Eusebia said of her son. "He was the classic gentle giant."

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Holdup man arrested

POLICE yesterday arrested a suspected holdup man after the taxi driver he tried to rob fought back in Mandaluyong City.

SPO4 Ernesto de Leon identified the suspect as Vener Lebanan, 21, of Kenneth Street, Pasig City. Lebanan is now detained at the Mandaluyong City police jail and is facing attempted robbery charges.

The driver was identified as Zaldy Mendez, 29, of Sitio Lower Lucban, Antipolo City.

Mendez said he was flagged down by Lebanan in front of the Rizal Capitol complex on Shaw Boulevard in Pasig City at about 1:30 a.m. At the intersection of Shaw Boulevard and Edsa in Mandaluyong City, Lebanan allegedly took out a nine-inch kitchen knife and announced the holdup.

Mendez said he and the suspect were grappling for possession of the knife when passersby and Mandaluyong policemen saw them. *Agnes E. Donato*

Man kills brother by mistake

By Paul Ernest Lazaro
and Louie Jon Sanchez

A MAN allegedly killed on Wednesday night his younger brother by mistake during a drunken brawl in their house in Caloocan City.

Reynaldo de la Cruz, 43, was stabbed in the chest by his brother Carlito, 49, in a free-for-all, police said.

Reynaldo was pronounced dead at the Manila Central University Hospital.

The brothers were drinking with friends in the De la Cruz house on Bagong Sikat Street in Bagong Silang when the accidental stabbing happened at about 10:30 p.m., according to investigator PO2 Edgar Manapat of the Caloocan Police Station Investigation and Intelligence Bureau.

Police said Carlito confronted one of his drinking buddies to settle an old feud. The confrontation triggered a free-for-all among the drinkers, and a drunken Carlito got hold of a knife and stabbed his own brother, police said.

Carlito surrendered to barangay officials after the stabbing.

During interrogation, he told police he meant to stab another man and not his brother. Police said they would file criminal charges against him.

Santiago's 6th place showing a surprise

By Christian V. Esguerra

ACTIVIST turned politician Nathanael Santiago was hanging onto the sixth and last slot for a council seat in Caloocan on Tuesday night as the canvassing of votes in the city moved into the homestretch.

Tagged as a heavy favorite to top the race for the city council in Caloocan's second district, Santiago's disappointing showing at the polls comes as a surprise.

Santiago, the secretary general of the party-list group Bayan Muna, was a key player in the movement that ousted President Joseph Estrada from office.

Rose Mercado is trailing Santiago by less than 3,000 votes. Both Santiago and Mercado are with the People Power Coalition (PPC).

But the PPC-backed candidates in Caloocan appear to be headed for a sweeping victory in the city as reelectionist Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo is leading his rival Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio by more than 5,000 votes, according to the latest Comelec results.

In the congressional race in the city's second district, PPC's Edgar Erice is leading former Mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio Jr., older brother of Luis.

In the second district, incumbent Rep. Enrico Echiverri, also of the PPC, is leading Vice Mayor Oscar Malapitan.

Former basketball referee Luis "Tito" Varela is leading by at least 10,000 votes former Rep. Roberto "Bobby" Guanzon in the race for vice mayor.

Varela is Malonzo's running mate.

The Caloocan canvassing is expected to be finished Sunday, according to city prosecutor and city board of canvassers vice chair Ramon Rodrigo.

Cousin's rescuer shot to death

By Jerome Aning

A 23-YEAR-OLD buy-and-sell agent who tried to rescue his cousin from the wrath of a barangay *kagawad* was shot and killed by the latter in Sampaloc, Manila late Wednesday night.

Mervin Fernandez, a native of Santiago City, Isabela and resident of 668 Algeciras St., Sampaloc, suffered a gunshot wound in the left side of the chest.

He was pronounced dead upon arrival at the Sto Tomas University Hospital.

Investigation by SPO2 Benito Cabatbat showed that Fernandez, together with his relatives, including his cousin Paul Benavidez, were drinking in front of their residence when Paul stood to go play bingo at a friend's house at about 10:30 a.m.

Benavidez, 23, had just stepped out when he was confronted by Pepito Laurente and his son Larry.

Laurente is a member of the Barangay 442 council and brother of Insp. Jorge Laurente of the Sta. Ana police station.

Laurente accused Benavidez of being one of the youths who threw bottles on the roof of their house on Algeciras several nights ago.

Police said that despite Benavidez's loud denials, Laurente and his son attacked him. The barangay official was reportedly trying to strangle Benavidez when Fernandez arrived to come to his cousin's rescue.

The fuming Laurente fired at Fernandez and Benavidez, police said. Witnesses said a daughter handed him the gun.

Benavidez sought cover behind the steel gate of their house but Fernandez was hit. He was brought to the STUH but it was too late.

Police found at the shooting scene a slug and two live bullets from a .9mm-pistol and a 12-gauge shotgun.

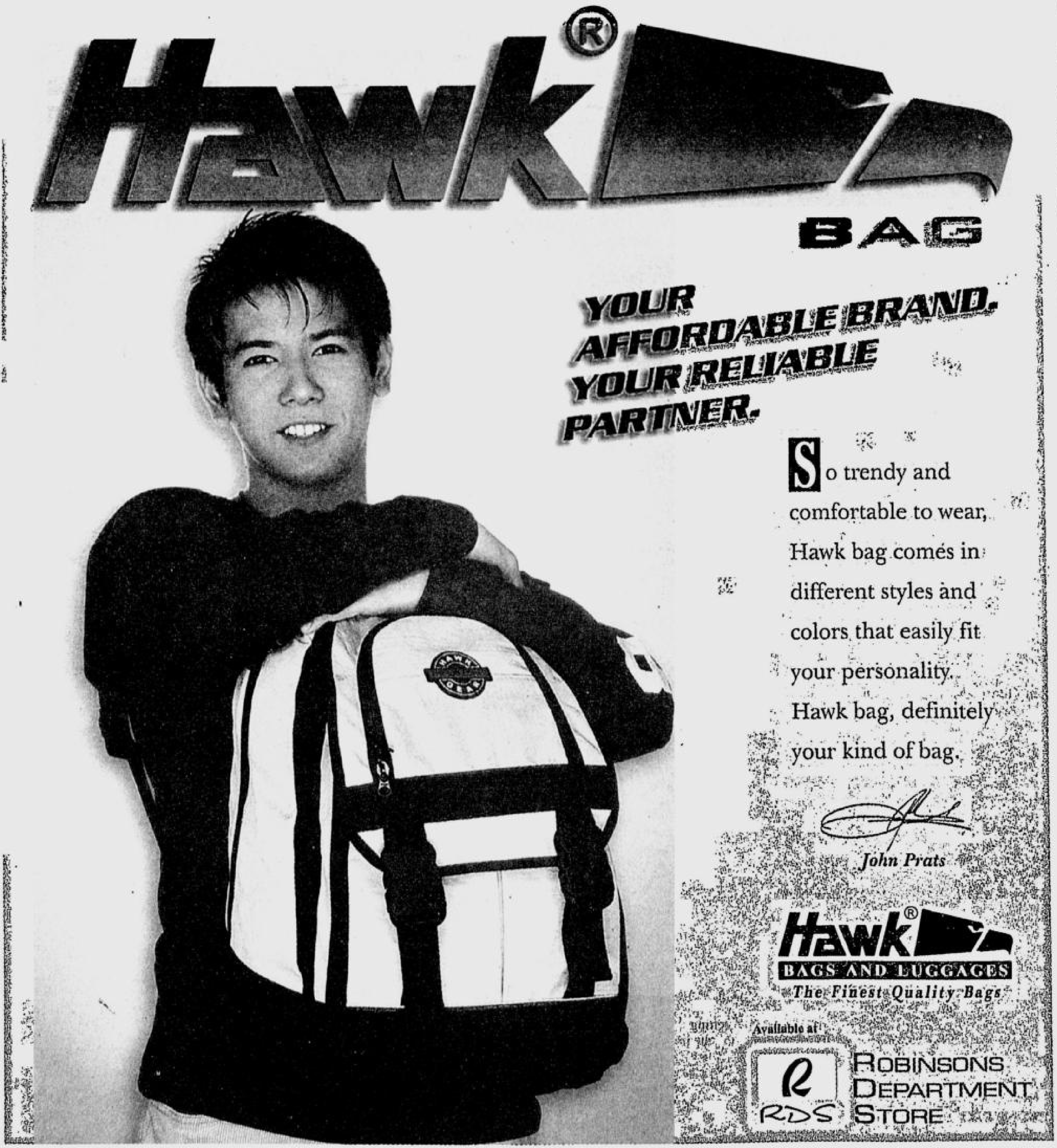
Laurente, who escaped after the shooting, is facing charges of murder and frustrated murder, police said

Zialcita bests 15

DR. ED Zialcita, Lakas-NUCD-Kampi's official bet for the lone congressional seat in Parañaque City, won by a margin of 3,305 votes against his nearest rival, according to the final National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) tally completed last week.

Zialcita kept his lead over contenders Rico Golez and former press secretary Rod Reyes throughout the last two days of counting. Zialcita won over 15 candidates, garnering 26,443 votes against Golez's 23,138 and Reyes' 20,430.

MRS. Soledad Cruz Eusebio is proclaimed winner of the mayoral race in Pasig City and is set to take over the post of her husband, incumbent Mayor Vicente P. Eusebio who is completing his third term. Mrs. Eusebio, who earned more than 140,000 votes, promised to continue her husband's fiscal management and good governance.



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Murphy Brown has out-of-body experience

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Friday, for no particular reason, we decided to watch "Murphy Brown" on Studio 23 to see how the long-running "sitcom with a heart" was coming along. Well, we were thrown for a loop when we saw that particular episode had two guest stars—**Bette Midler** and **Julia Roberts**.

One big star like Midler is impressive enough, so getting Roberts as well was a truly special treat. Was there something going on in the show that merited such dazzling star power? There was.

It turned out that the show we watched was the penultimate telecast of "Murphy Brown," which has been on the TV screen for many years. That's why Midler and Roberts were on hand, to give the sitcom's closing episodes a special boost.

In last Friday's telecast, Murphy Brown (**Candice Bergen**) was thinking of retiring as newscast anchor, and dreamed of buying herself a beach chair, so she could spend her "old age" at a seaside home.

She was feeling chipper because she felt she had finally triumphed over her breast cancer—but her final test evinced some sort of trouble, so she had to go under the knife again.

The episode ended with Murphy having an out-of-body experience, her soul getting up from the operating table and entering an old elevator that was supposed to take her to heaven, so that she could fulfill her dream of interviewing God!

Did Murphy die on the operating table? Not yet, because she still has a final episode to do tonight, right?

Now, what about Midler and Robert's participation in the show? Midler's was only a spot appearance as a wealthy woman who for some reason had agreed to do some secretarial work in Murphy's office. She clowned around for a few minutes, and then she was gone.

But Roberts had a much longer exposure. She played herself and dropped by the office because she had gotten a crush on Murphy's colleague, Frank, but they kept missing each other by seconds.

The trailer for the final show showed Roberts making a return appearance, so that's something to look forward to seeing.

Mainly, though, we'll be curious about how the famous sitcom will finally end. Will Murphy really kick the bucket? What will God be made to look like when she interviews the Deity? *Abangan ang kahuli-hulihang kabanata ng* "Murphy Brown" (at 9:30 p.m. today, right after "West Wing").

P.S.: Aside from Julia Roberts, **George Clooney** and **Haley Joel Osment** are set to do guest appearances on "Murphy Brown's" final telecast.

New TV show on the paranormal

(continuation)

THE FIFTH and most surprising resource person was characterized as an anthropologist, and he categorically said, *"Totoo ang istorya ng Babae sa Balete Drive. Totoo ang multo."*

Fine, but why retell this old tale at this time?

The show's second feature was less speculative and sought to shed greater light on mind power, specifically telekinesis, or the ability to move usually immovable objects, bend metal spoons, etc.

After making use of foreign footage of the power of telekinesis in application, the feature also showed two Filipinos who had the power.

The visual proof was more convincing than the generally word-of-mouth and legendary "evidence" of the earlier feature on the so-called White Lady of Balete Drive.

Finally, the program did a brief feature on black cats, which it described as both unlucky and lucky depending on whom you talked to.

To make the discussion more "scientific," a sociologist was invited to talk on the subject, and he ended with the conclusion that, scientifically, there was no proof that black cats had any more power to cause fortune or misfortune than, say, calico or Cheshire cats.

So, what was that third feature for?

To titillate, to speculate, which is what many notions about paranormal phenomena do. To be more enlightened and enlightening about this sort of thing, therefor, "Verum Est must be more selective about the topics it chooses to "investigate."

Also, it cannot fudge its responsibility on this score by, coming up with the facile conclusion that, after everything is said and done, *"Tayo pa rin ang gumuguhit ng sarili nating kapalaran."* Gee, thanks.

Ruffa no longer altar-bound with rich boyfriend

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

JUST when **Ruffa Gutierrez** recently denied she's getting married, the actress-beauty queen who is now based in the United States called it quits with her foreign boyfriend, **Yilmaz Bektas**, the son of a sheik from Turkey.

On the phone from Los Angeles last Wednesday afternoon, Ruffa was neither sulking nor rejoicing about the split.

"It was a mutual decision for us to give each other space, although he sensed he was no longer my first priority," she explained to INQUIRER. "I'm free to date whoever I want to. It's time for me to take care of myself."

Yilmaz, however, still checks on her all the time "because we're best friends and there's no animosity between us."

The aborted Ruffa-Yilmaz wedding was planned to take place in Monte Carlo or St. Tropez, and not Turkey, according to Ruffa. It was supposed to be solemnized in two separate rites—a Muslim ceremony that would last 10 minutes and a Catholic wedding officiated by a priest.

In fact, for two weeks, Ruffa had been checking out $5-million homes in Malibu, Bel-Air or Beverly Hills, which would have been a residence for her and Yilmaz in LA.

But now that she and Yilmaz have decided to part ways, Ruffa is not totally heartbroken. She has decided to move on and focus on her career.

Whether she likes it or not, Ruffa has been a magnet for controversy wherever she is, be it in the US where she works, in Istanbul where Yilmaz lives or in Manila where she visits her family.

Recently, Ruffa was surprised when athlete **David Bunevacz** created a stir by talking ill about her during a presscon for his movie with **Robin Padilla**.

"It's a pity he has nothing better to talk about that's why he talks about me," Ruffa said. "He should be talking about his film and focus on his career which is not getting anywhere. He has no authority over what I do in my life. Who I'm dating is simply none of his business."

The feud between David and Ruffa also surprised the public, who saw that Ruffa even stood as bridesmaid during David's wedding last December to **Jessica Rodriguez**. Yilmaz was also the best man in the grand ceremony.

"I took time out of my hectic schedule in LA to go home for their wedding," Ruffa said. "I even flew to Istanbul to make sure Yilmaz would go to the Philippines to be the best man. He was there because of me."

Ruffa and Jessica used to be the best of friends, too. They had a falling out early this year after Ruffa learned that Jessica was reportedly trying to introduce her female talents to Yilmaz.

"Even before, my mom kept warning me, 'Stop hanging out with her. She doesn't have a good reputation.' I didn't listen. I'm a very open person, warm to people and easily make friends even without knowing their background or where they come from. At the end of the day, it's sad to know they talk behind my back.

"The people that I think would speak up for me were the ones who would even spread bad things about me. That taught me a good lesson. I am now very selective of the people I trust."

Ruffa has also learned to keep her personal relationships very private.

"Next time, I'm not going to tell anyone about my boyfriend," she said. "Everyone is trying to meddle and give me advice about my relationship when they don't even know the guy."

Her feud with the couple made Ruffa turn down the offer to host the recent Binibining Pilipinas pageant with David.

"I don't want to be next to him after all that he said about me," she said. "I can't stand being plastic."

David and Jessica are now reportedly in the States. In case she bumps into the couple, Ruffa says she won't make a big fuss about the issue.

"I'm a very peace-loving person. I don't want to dignify the issue because it's just a waste of my time."

Ruffa simply wants to take everything in stride.

"I want to take it easy and let time be the judge. I know everything will happen in God's time. I am focusing on my career and focus on the positive. I still have a lot of things to fulfill. I'm enjoying my life here in the States. I'm happy regardless of what happened in the past and what the future may bring."

ALCASID. Busy in the concert scene.

First time in Australia

OGIE Alcasid has been to Australia countless times for vacation and visit to the hometown of his wife, former beauty queen **Michelle Van Elmeren**.

But despite his many trips to Australia, it is only now that Ogie has been given the chance to perform there. At 7 tonight, Ogie will take centerstage for the first time at the Rooty Hill in New South Wales, in a concert billed as "Ogie, Live Down Under."

Ogie will sing his signature hits which are surely popular among Filipinos in Sydney. He will also dish out other Filipino classics. **Archie Castillo** is his musical director.

Tickets to the Sydney show are priced at Australia $65 (about P1,700) and $55 (P1,500)—which are affordable for Filipinos in Sydney.

Ogie is indeed very busy in the concert scene. Prior to his Australian concert, he was in the United States for a series of shows in New Jersey, Virginia and California. He is slated to return to the States in August for another concert tour.

In the recording scene, Ogie has never been outshone. His good friend and "SOP" cohost, **Regine Velasquez**, revived his hit ballad, "Pangako." The song has been adopted as the theme of Regine's upcoming movie with **Aga Muhlach** for Viva Films.

The choice of "Pangako" as a movie theme only reinforces Ogie's title as "movie theme song king." He has countless compositions and hit singles which have propelled a number of films to box office status.

Because of this, Ogie was prompted to release the songs in his latest album, "Movie Moments," under MCA-Universal. The musical outing continues to do well in the record market and recently earned for Ogie two nominations in the forthcoming MTV Awards.

He is cited for best male music video and best song for "Kahit Na."

LEGARDA. She's all about empowering other women—protecting their rights, advancing their interests and giving them more opportunities to enjoy better lives.

Touching Loren's soft spot

SEN. Loren Legarda is a passionate mother, a devoted wife, a no-nonsense broadcast journalist and a committed public servant. She's the ideal example of an empowered Filipina. And at this point in her life, she's all about empowering other women—protecting their rights, advancing their interests and giving them more opportunities to enjoy better lives.

"I must admit that issues regarding women and children hold a soft spot in my heart," declares the hardworking and crusading senator. "It's worth the effort if I improve the life of just one woman. Of course, this is because I'm a mother, wife and homemaker myself."

Loren, who garnered the highest number of votes for the senatorial race during the 1998 elections, is in her element not when she's doing an investigative piece nor when she's at the senate. She is at her finest and shines brightest when she's simply at home with her family.

Playing the roles of wife, mother, senator and broadcast journalist all at the same time is no easy task, even for someone as disciplined and accomplished as Loren.

"People know that I juggle many different roles in my life," she says. "I push myself to be the best I can be in all those roles and many women can attest that it is not an easy task. But I'm not complaining. On the contrary, I'm very thankful because my life is constantly enriched by these roles and the experiences that come with them."

Loren's life is constantly enriched by Tony, her husband of 14 years, and by their two sons, Lanz and Lean. Theirs, she says, is a family with very simple joys and pleasures.

"An ordinary day in our household is just like any day in any other household," Loren shares. "We try to live a simple life. When I'm not too busy, we eat our meals together. I check my children's homework when I get home at night, and before they sleep, we all pray together."

Just like any other typical Filipino family, Sunday is considered family day for the Levistes. They hear mass together and at noontime, they either go to a restaurant or enjoy a home-cooked meal.

"We also go to the beach or an island usually on weekends, to rejuvenate ourselves after a long and hectic week at work for Tony and me, and in school for the kids. There we enjoy the peace and quiet and spend some quality time together."

Lately, Loren has also been very visible on TV. She has just premiered a weekly docu-drama, "Kabalikat," which focuses on child abuse, women's rights and other social issues and concerns.

Loren is also the official endorser of Ariel, a detergent product. This new role has left many of her admirers wondering: why is Loren endorsing a detergent product?

"Ariel runs right through the very fabric of women empowerment," Loren declares. "It gives all the working mothers and homemakers the opportunity to set themselves free from else bondage of laborious and time consuming laundry chore. It is a flew tool for to women who want to play more dynamic roles at home and elsewhere. Women who want to have the time to do the things they want to do. This is one of the main reasons why I'm all for the benefits of Ariel."

Efficiency and proper time managements she believes, are important values that women have to learn. "Much of the beauty of Ariel lies in the opportunity it presents to women, especially the Filipina. It sets them free by giving them more time which is very important in their lives as mothers, wives, homemakers and career women," Loren stresses.

It's all about making decisions and choices for oneself and one's family, says Loren. *"Iba na ang Pilipina ngayon,"* she quips. "Change is in our lands and it's up to us to know what we want and to work hard at getting it. We have the freedom to define our priorities and to stick by them no matter what."

Loren's family is her priority. "Playing the role of mother to two young, energetic kids may be difficult but I will always have time for them. Aside from that, I'm also a homemaker. I want to make sure that everything is OK. And no matter what I'm doing or how busy I get, I make sure that everything in my home and family is in order."

That's the Loren story -- a story about one empowered Filipina, a story about empowering the Filipina.

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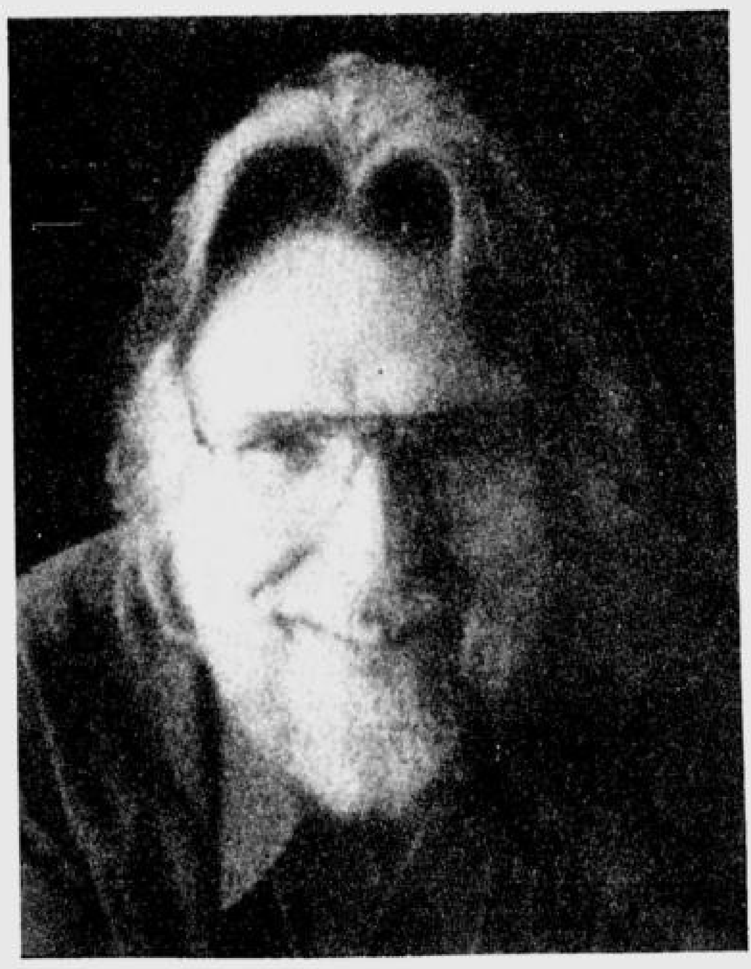

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SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE POSSESSED
2	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	MASARAP ANG UNANG KAGAT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
3	DTS	TRAFFIC
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MUMMY RETURNS
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
8	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
9	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE POSSESSED

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
2	DOLBY SURROUND	MASARAP ANG UNANG KAGAT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	THE POSSESSED
10	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	TRAFFIC
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	KAMASUTRA 2001
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE POSSESSED
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
11	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
12	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	VALENTINE
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TRAFFIC

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
5	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
6	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
7	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE POSSESSED
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
12	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE POSSESSED
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	TRAFFIC
5	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9	ULTRA SURROUND	VALENTINE
10	ULTRA SURROUND	DALAWA SI EBA

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TRAFFIC
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW
5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE SEDUCER
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THWE MUMMY RETURNS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	ATTACK FORCE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE POSSESSED
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN

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GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD

1	SPY KIDS
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	KAMASUTRA 2001
4	THE MUMMY RETURNS

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	TRAFFIC in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	SOMEONE LIKE YOU in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	SPY KIDS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	THE MUMMY RETURNS in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	THE MUMMY RETURNS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	TRAFFIC in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE June 8-9 9PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	SPY KIDS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	TRAFFIC in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE

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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2 (SDDS)	TRAFFIC
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4 GOLD (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	TRAFFIC
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8 [illegible]	BALIKTARAN
9 [illegible]	SPY KIDS
10 [illegible]	VALENTINE

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853 4486

1	PILAK
2	DALAWA SI EBA
3 (DTS)	
4	HANNIBAL
5	VITAL PART
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3 (Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	DALAWA SI EBA
2 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURN
3	TRAFFIC

Masagana CINEMA SOLO (Pasay) tel 831 6603

1	15 MINUTES
2	THE MUMMY RETURN
3	MASARAP UNANG KAGAT

starmall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	SPY KIDS
2	TRAFFIC
3	KAMASUTRA 2001
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5	PILAK

Metropolis (Alabang) tel 543 4001

1	BALIKTARAN
2	KAMASUTRA 2001
3	TRAFFIC
4	RESERVE
5	MASARAP UNANG KAGAT
6	THE MUMMY RETURN
7	RESERVE
8	DALAWA SI EBA

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX (Makati City) tel 751.2010/892 3349

1	THE MUMMY RTURN

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	ANTI TRUST
2	HALIK NG SERENA

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC tel 930.9515

1	DALAWA SI EBA
2	ACT OF WAR
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	MASARAP UNANG KAGAT
A	DALAWA SI EBA

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	PILAK
3	MASARAP UNANG KAGAT
4	DALAWA SI EBA

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	KAMASUTRA 2001
6	SPY KIDS
7 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8 (SDDS)	VALENTINE
9 (DOLBY)	TRAFFIC

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PILAK
2	BALIKTARAN
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4 (SDDS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5	SPY KIDS
6 (DOLBY)	TRAFFIC
7 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	KAMASUTRA 2001
3	RESERVE
4	SPY KIDS
5 (SDDS)	TRAFFIC
6	BALIKTARAN
7 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	PILAK

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	TRAFFIC
3 (DTS)	PILAK
4	SPY KIDS
5 (SDDS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	FEMALE ANIMALS
Lords	WINASAK
Jennet	PILAK

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851/533.3856

1	TRAFFIC
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	RESERVE
4	SPY KIDS

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	TRAFFIC
3	PILAK
4	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
5	DALAWA SI EBA

New Divisoria Mall CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	TRAFFIC
3	PILAK
4	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
5	DALAWA SI EBA
6	MASARAP UNANG KAGAT

Baclaran LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	SPY KIDS
3	DALAWA SI EBA
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SUGAR & SPICE
2	15 MINUTES
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	15 MINUTES
2 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
3 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	TRAFFIC
2	DALAWA SI EBA
3	MASARAP UNANG KAGAT
4 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	SUGAR & SPICE
5	15 MINUTES

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	15 MINUTES
3	THE POSSESSED

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	15 MINUTES
3	THE POSSESSED

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511 9736

1	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	PILAK

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	SPY KIDS

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	VALENTINE
2	15 MINUTES
3	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4	BALIKTARAN

Berma tel 879 2168

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	DALAWA SI EBA

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	MASARAP UNANG KAGAT
3	RESERVE
4	3 000 MILES TO GRACELAND

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	SPY KIDS
2	THE POSSESSED
3	VALENTINE
4 (DTS EX)	THE MUMMY RETURNS

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THX DOLBY dts SDDS

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Fat Session heats up Davao City night life

DAVAO City is in for great '70s music as Fat Session performs at the Summit in Royal Mandaya Hotel Davao until May 31.

Jeanie, Ana and Orca, the frontliners of Fat Session, will once again warm the hearts and groove-up the veins of their fans as they do retro covers from the Carpenters, Carole King and Diana Ross.

Fat Session has performed in some of the most hip bars and hotels in Metro Manila and around the country. The group can dish out upbeat or slow tunes from the '70s with ease, sensitivity and style. Each song is heartfelt and a genuine expression of joy and verve, a rare quality that sets Fat Session apart from many bands.

Levi's at Padi's Mindave'

"LEVI'S Super-Low Tour" will liven up Padi's Mindave on Mindanao Avenue in Quezon City tonight as five gorgeous female models show off the latest innovation in jeans, the Super-Low Cut Jeans, some of which are cut four inches below the navel.

Levi's shirts, premium items and discount coupons will be given to Padi's Mindave customers in an exciting contest on the same night.

Mindave Entertainment Corp. has invited Traffic Jam, Ascension and Jumpstart bands to perform.

Padi's Mindave is the new three-story restaurant, bar, entertainment center, art gallery and open-air garden on Mindanao Avenue. On May 30 at 5 p.m., nine award-winning artists will launch their group called "Ikalawang Palapag" with the opening of "Unang Hakbang," an exhibit of oil, acrylic and other paintings.

For details, call 453-0080, 925-3117 or 414-4930 to 34.

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ERMITA 536-7809-14

1. THE MUMMY RETURNS
2. SPY KIDS
3. THE POSSESSED
4. KAMASUTRA 2001
5. THE MUMMY RETURNS
6. TRAFFIC
7. THE MUMMY RETURNS

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1. THE MUMMY RETURNS
2. SPY KIDS
3. TRAFFIC
4. THE MUMMY RETURNS
5. KAMASUTRA 2001
6. THE POSSESSED

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. THE MUMMY RETURNS
2. SUGAR & SPICE
3. BALIKTARAN
4. EXIT WOUNDS
5. THE MUMMY RETURNS
6. SWEET NOVEMBER

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	[illegible]
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALIKTARAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	VALENTINE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	15 MINUTES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE POSSESSED
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MALIKOT ANG AGOS NG TUBIG / TALK DIRTY
ODEON	MUMMY RETURNS
ODEON-2	KAMASUTRA 2001
ROBEN	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	MS CONGENIALITY DEMON GATE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	TRAFFIC
QUEZON-1	MUMMY RETURNS
REMAR	MUMMY RETURNS
REMAR-2	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BADABING PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79, 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	[illegible]
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681 54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-2	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-3	15 MINUTES
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-6	THE POSSESSED
CINEMA-7	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-12	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-14	VALENTINE
CINEMA-15	KAMASUTRA 2001
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-2	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-3	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-4	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-5	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURNS

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Rachel Weisz
Arnold Vosloo

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11:00 PM - Mummy Returns

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4	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Coastal mall

1	BODY TO BODY
2	LAGARISTA
4	MASARAP HABANG MAINIT

I am saddened by Phillip's defeat but . . .

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

CONRADO de Quiros is my favorite columnist. I heartily appreciate his humor, I respect his wisdom and I gain much from his insight. My admiration is strong even when his criticism of my mother frequently borders on the cruel and is markedly prejudiced.

Last Monday in his assessment of the reasons behind the losses of some big name actors in the May 14 polls, he attributed **Phillip Salvador**'s unsuccessful bid for the vice mayoralty of Mandaluyong City to our split-up and the subsequent "harsh" words I had to say about our parting of ways and presumably Phillip's character.

Mr. De Quiros restated this same concept in an interview he gave ABS-CBN's "The Correspondents."

I thank him for saying I'm "very popular" and that I most likely had an impact on the voters of Mandaluyong City. May I turn the tables, though, and offer the premise that if Phillip and I were still together, wouldn't our immoral relationship turn off the more conservative voters of Mandaluyong City? Then again, maybe this argument won't hold too much water since the voters never chastised former President Erap for his extra-marital affairs. But he didn't have Cory for an erstwhile mother-in-law, either.

In my defense I have tried my best to be as circumspect as possible for someone as irrepressible as I am wont to be, with regard to my comments about Phillip. I am guilty, though, of emotionally lashing out at him on my former program, "Today with Kris Aquino," at the height of Edsa II, for having been present at Mendiola and defending the actions of the "No" senators.

In a democracy we are, after all, entitled to air our opinions, but I had the unfair advantage of having nearly 3 million captive viewers listening to my diatribe.

Being prudent

But as far as the nearly five years Phillip and I were together are concerned, I have never blamed him or hurled accusations at him as to why it didn't work out. He is, after all, **Joshua**'s dad. He should fully enjoy Josh's love and respect, independent of Josh's strong maternal loyalty.

Secondly, because I am being prudent. I pray to be married one day, and my chances of having another opportunity at a lasting relationship are lessened if men will be wary of me because I'm constantly airing dirty linen in public and dissing my ex, right? Who'd want to get involved with a woman still hung up on the past?

Lastly, falling in love with Phillip was my choice. Despite the nearly 18-year age gap, and even if at 23 I was extremely naïve, the decision to enter into a relationship with him, produce Josh, live with him, even without his possession of an annulment, was mine alone.

Simply put, I fell desperately in love and threw all circumspection to the wind. And now at 30, the brunt of the consequences on my life are mine to shoulder. That statement applies equally to us both.

Our parting of ways was also my decision. It will forever remain a reality that because of Josh, our lives will forever be inexorably linked.

'Kuya Ipe'

Allow me to share with you a family anecdote that will shed some light on where our relationship stands.

Whenever I have to tape out of town and stay overnight, Josh bunks in my mom's place. One weekend morning when I was in Bacolod in the mist of the campaign, Josh was hanging out in my mom's room. Because of his ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), Josh has a speech delay, and he's only now communicating in sentences. When his thoughts are enunciated, we're all very proud of his achievement.

Josh was lying down in my mom's bed when he suddenly and loudly uttered, "*Kawawa Kuya* Ipe." (Our drivers and *yayas* refer to Phillip as *Kuya* Ipe, so when not addressing his dad, that's what Josh inevitably calls him.) My mom asked him, "Josh, *bakit kawawa si Kuya* Ipe?"

To which Josh, with all the innocent wisdom of a 5-year-old, replied, "*Kasi galit si Lola* Cory."

My mom was thoroughly amused by Josh's pronouncements and she laughingly related the conversation to me as soon as I got back from my trip.

Answered prayer

On Mother's Day, a day before the elections, I sent Phillip a text message wishing him well and congratulating him in advance because my mom had heard from my Uncle **Esting**, who's close to the Abalos family, that Phillip was a sure-winner for vice mayor. That statement from the opposing camp seemed like good news.

In fairness to my mom, she's now able to casually mention Phillip's name in conversation, and she had even asked me this past Sunday if I had called him to check on how he was coping. Most people assume that there's still animosity, hence my uncle was even asked by friends from Mandaluyong how "Madam" (as they referred to my mom) would react to Phillip's victory.

Take it from me, for the sake of Josh, she would have welcomed Phillip's victory. I am so blessed because my mom and sisters are so patient and nurturing toward Josh. They always take into consideration his special needs. Josh even heckles my mom, and gets away with it. She showers him with hugs and kisses, spoils him with *sampalok, butong pakwan*, Royal Tru Orange, chocolates and McDonald's *merienda* money.

My mom's generosity of affection and time for him is an answered prayer for me. Josh's entry into the world was a cause for much pain in her heart, but his presence is now a source of much love and laughter for us all.

I am saddened by Phillip's loss, but I am no longer in any position to offer him comfort. I failed to contribute anything whatsoever to help him during his campaign; it would be weird to commiserate now.

We are no longer a family, and I realize now that we shouldn't even have attempted to build a family of our own when he already had an existing one to begin with.

But Josh is our living reminder of what we had shared. And Josh is reason enough for all of us whose lives he touches to want and wish all that is good for one another.

Destiny

My mom has always told me that victory in politics is a matter of destiny. My dad had lived his entire life with the presidency as his goal. Martial Law and his assassination paved the way for my mom to fulfill what was her fated destiny.

Maybe our relationship had a significant role in the shaping of Phillip's destiny, in the same way that our five years together has been pivotal in molding mine. I'd like to believe that I've emerged a much more evolved and responsible person today, nearly two-and-a-half years after our breakup, appreciating all that I now have because of the journey I'd undertaken to get here and, more importantly, to get to me.

I will always have deep gratitude for all that we'd once shared, tinged with just the mildest of sorrow for all that will never be. Because of having once loved Phillip, I have my son, and Josh is the one person apart from my mom who loves me unconditionally.

May I paraphrase the song "In Your Eyes." In Josh's eyes I've found my dream's reflections and all the answers to my questions.

For Phillip, I pray that the innate kindness of his heart and the resilience of his spirit will help him overcome the disappointment of today, and strengthen him to fulfill the still prodigious promise of his tomorrow.

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MUMMY RETURNS - P 13 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10	MUMMY RETURNS - P 13 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30	MUMMY RETURNS - P 13 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50, 11:30

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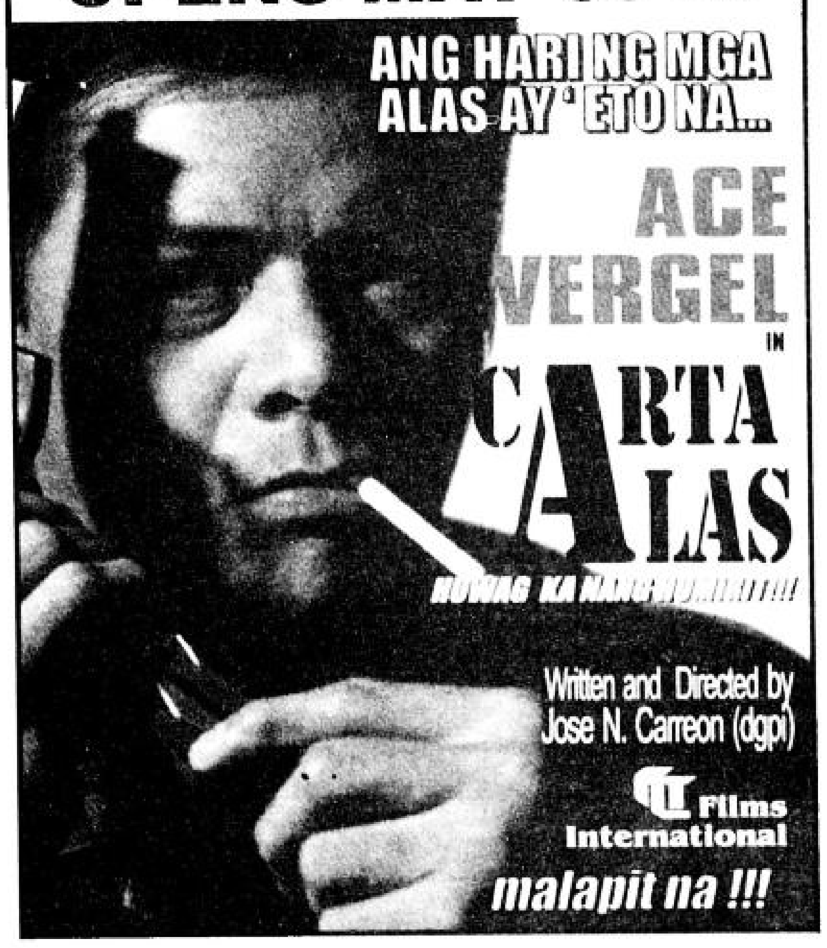

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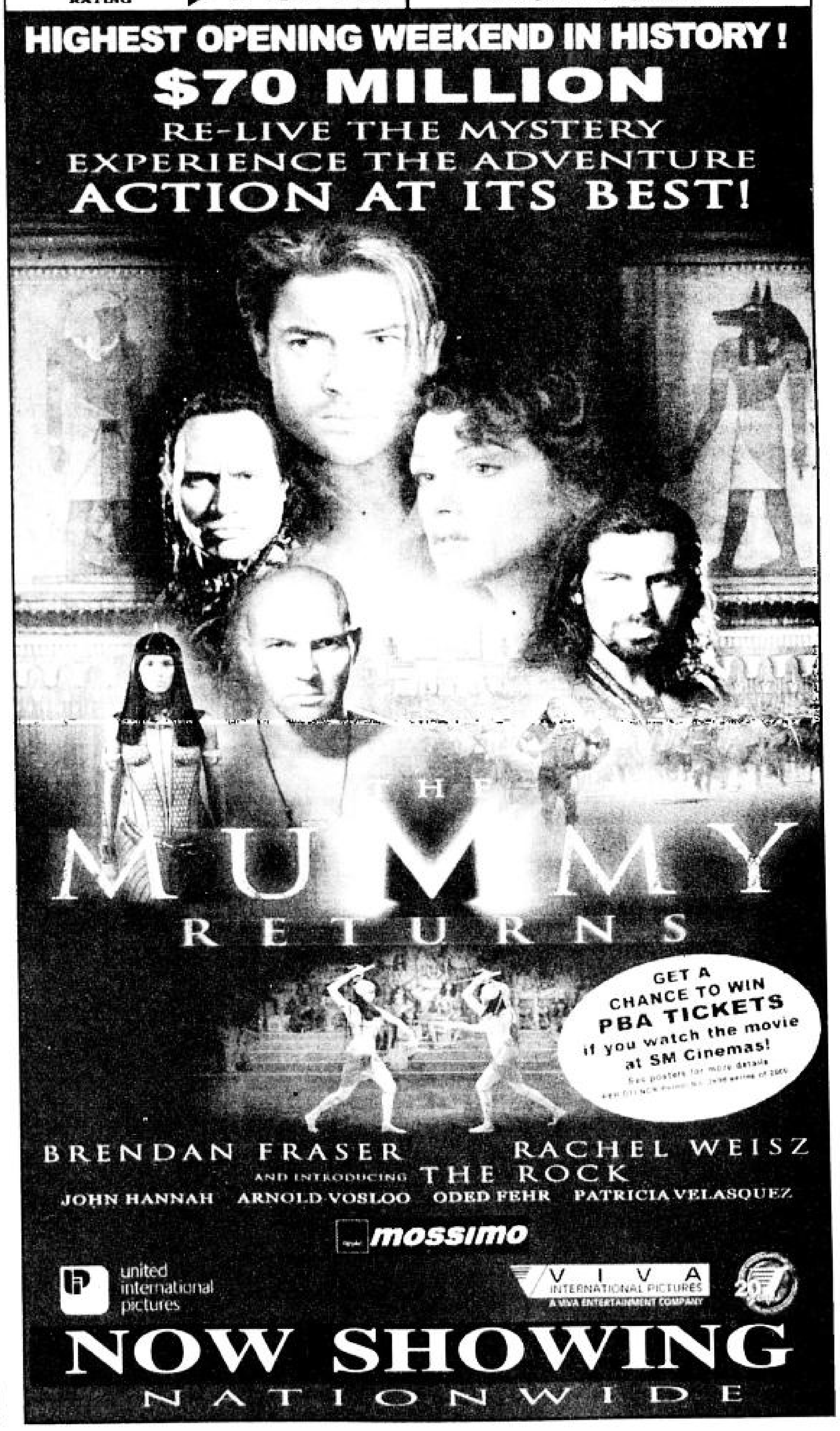

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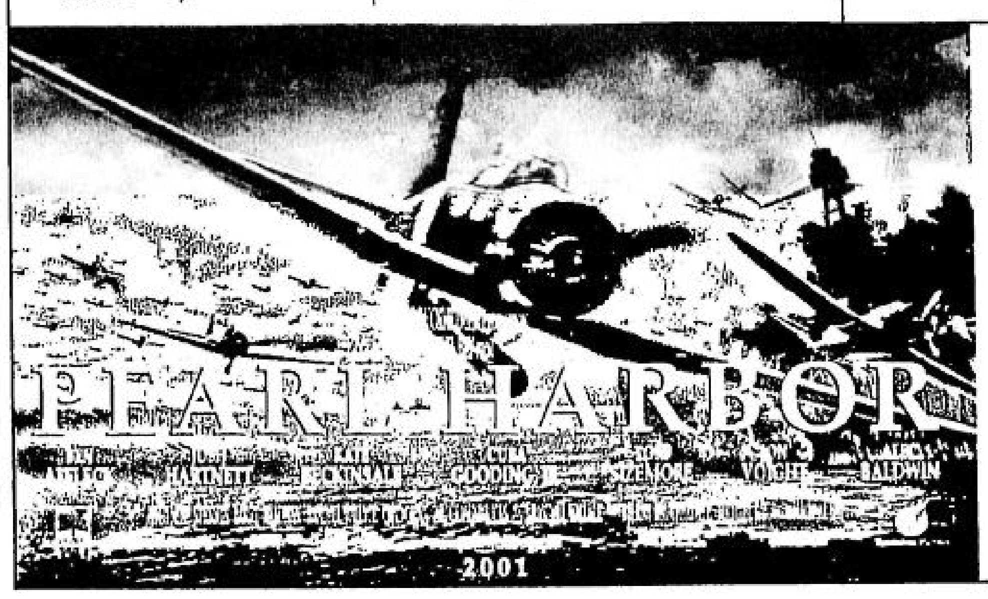

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

GMA on CNN

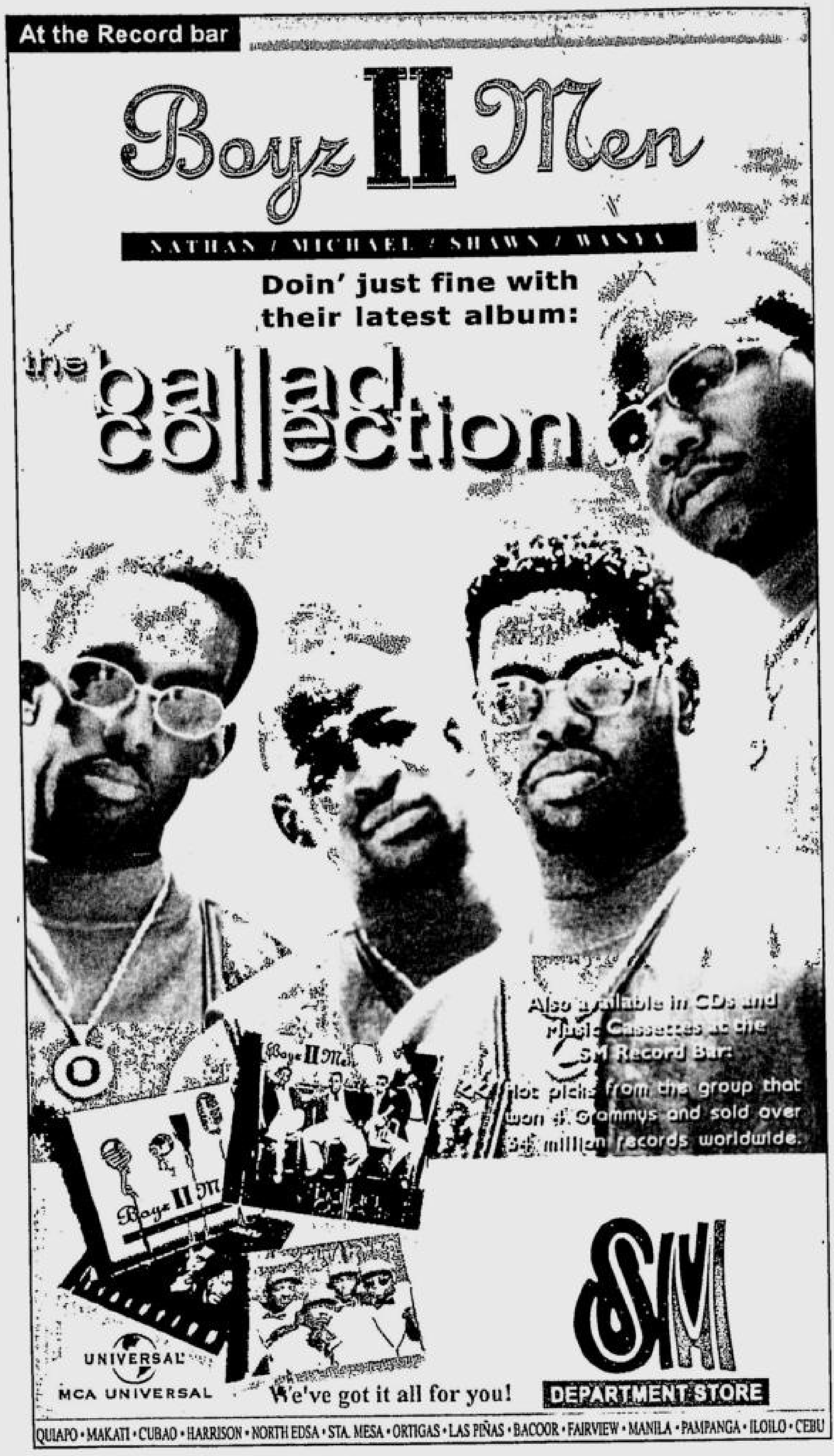
CNN's chat show, "Talk Asia," will feature President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines and Maurice Gibb of the Bee Gees, May 26 at 12 noon and May 27 at 9 p.m.

During the in-depth interview with President Macapagal, CNN's host Dalton Tanonaka will discover more about the real person behind the headlines.

In the second half of the program, Maurice Gibb from the Bee Gees speaks to Tanonaka about the band's newly released album, "This Is Where I Came In," as well as his personal life. He also tells CNN that he would consider writing songs for rising Asian pop stars in the future.

To complement the program, these two special guests are also featured on a dedicated section on the global network's Asian website, www.cnn.com/talkasia.

"Talk Asia" is CNN's new regional chat show launched on May 17. The hour-long program features celebrity interviews, topical discussion and personal insight focusing on Asia's leading business, political and entertainment personalities.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BUSINESS
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PNB bad loans at 50%; revamp set

By Clarissa S. Batino

HALF of Philippine National Bank's loans are "non-performing" and its book value has deteriorated to P40 a share, a PricewaterhouseCoopers audit commissioned in March-April has shown.

The findings of PwC, a US auditing giant, revealed that PNB had bigger financial problems than what SGV & Co. earlier determined.

SGV & Co. reported earlier that 40 percent of PNB's portfolio last year consisted of bad loans and that its book value stood at P50 a share.

A person familiar with the matter, however, stressed that PwC's recent audit was "not as precise and detailed" as the one it did in 1999. In that audit, PwC estimated PNB's bad loans ratio in 1998 at 40 percent of its portfolio. The bank, at the time, placed the ratio at only 29 percent.

"PwC gave a general recommendation on the rehabilitation, and their figures had a wide range . . . because they claimed they were not given absolute access to the bank's books," he said.

PNB's bad loans ratio is more than three times the industry average in March this year of 16.69 percent.

The only pleasant finding in PwC's audit, according to Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president Norberto Nazareno, was that the value of the bank's foreclosed assets was P14 billion more than the P22 billion SGV quoted in its report.

"The Ropoa (real and other properties owned and acquired) was undervalued by P14 billion," Nazareno said.

Nazareno is expected to replace former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa as PNB chair during the bank's stockholders' meeting next week.

Nazareno is one of four government nominees set to sit in PNB's board.

An INQUIRER source said Global Business Bank executive director Edward Go would also be nominated by the government.

Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison said beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan, PNB's majority owner, would have five board seats.

Two seats would be given to independent directors. Cielo Macapagal Salgado, sister of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and SGV founder Washington Sycip were expected to assume these posts. Salgado would replace banker Vicente Panlilio.

Gison said the government would request for a reduction of PNB's P60 par value to reflect SGV's and PwC's findings.

"If the price is below par, which is likely the case, then we have to go through another re-organization," he said.

The reduction in PNB's par value would be in line with the government's plan to regain control of the bank.

PNB said yesterday the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and PDIC would convert part of their P25 billion worth of loans to the bank into equity as part of PNB's rehabilitation program.

Also part of the bank's rehabilitation plan is the liquidation of its loans to selected government agencies.

PNB said the Department of Finance and PDIC had assured the bank's majority stockholders in a meeting this week "that the government is fully committed to the rehabilitation of PNB."

"This will include conversion of part of the P25 billion in loans of the (central bank) and PDIC into equity."

The bank said it expected that after implementing its rehabilitation plan, its "balance sheet will strengthen and its operations will become profitable, enhancing the bank's share value."

Shares of PNB were down a peso to P51.50 in late trade. The main stock index was down 1.38 percent at 1,426.27 points.

PNB/ B2

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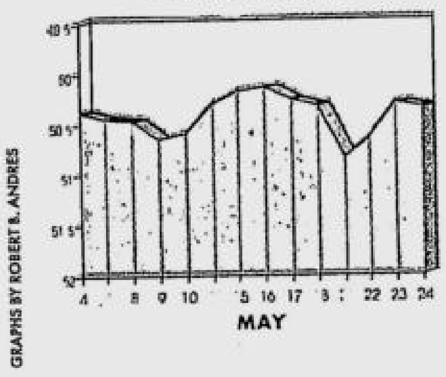
PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

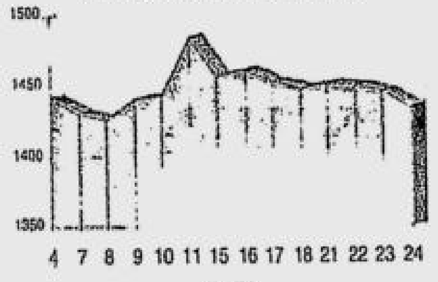
P50.34 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
May 24, 2001

¥120.02 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 120.02 as of 5 p.m.,
May 24, 2001

GOLD:$283.00/283.50
per ounce Hong Kong,
May 24, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares down

STOCKS ended lower yesterday with sentiment hurt by a raid on a tourist island in southern Philippines by suspected Moro rebels.

The main index fell 11.52 points, or 0.8 percent, to end at 1,434.68 points, partially recovering from its day-low of 1,424.09 points.

The broader All Shares Index shed six points, or 0.78 percent, to close at 761.10 points.

The stock market has lost 4 percent so far this year but its performance is still better than Hong Kong, Jakarta, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

Turnover climbed to P469.84 million from the previous P363.22 million. Losers outpaced gainers, 37 to 29, while 48 issues were unchanged. *Reuters*

RGH sells 2 subsidiaries

GLASS manufacturer Republic Glass Holdings Corp. has approved a P1.19-billion deal involving the sale of its two key subsidiaries to the group of Tokyo-based Asahi Glass Co. Ltd., manufacturer of glass, chemicals, ceramics and electronics products.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Republic Glass, which is controlled by former Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco, said the board had accepted Asahi's offer to buy all of its shares in joint venture firms Republic Asahi Glass Corp. (RAGC) and Republic Asahi Realty Corp. (RARC).

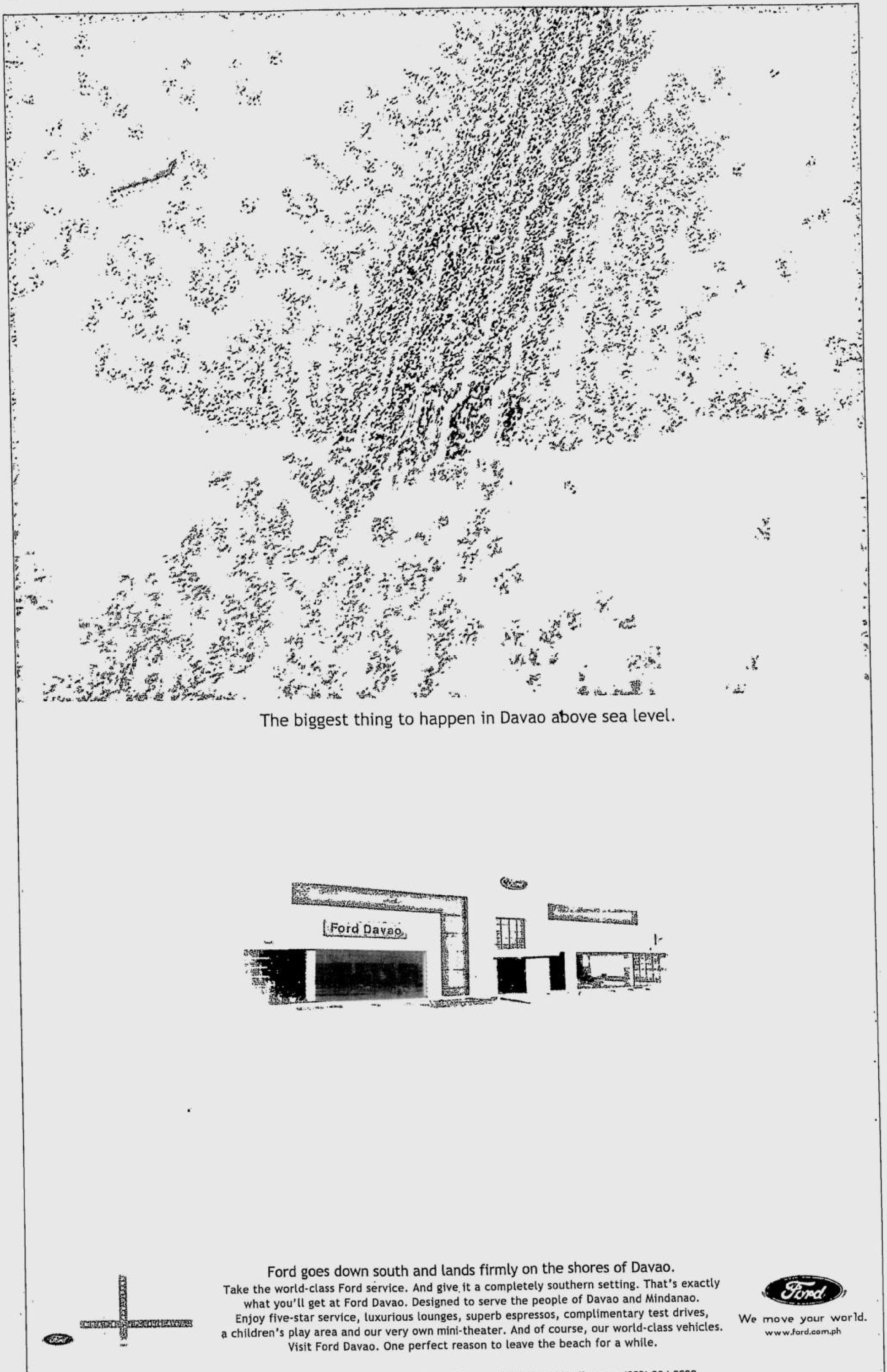
The disclosure said Asahi would buy out Republic Glass' stake in RAGC while the shares in RARC would be sold to its nominee, real estate holding company Casa del Sol Development Corp.

ALI's new project

AYALA Land Inc., the country's top property developer, yesterday said it would assign to a new wholly owned unit its rights to develop a 9.4-hectare lot in a new central business district at the edge of the Makati financial center in Manila.

ALI is leasing the lot, located along a major highway, from the Bases Conversion Development Authority under an agreement the two parties signed in September last year.

The company is planning a mixed-use development for the lot and will start with a regional shopping center which will break ground this year. *Reuters*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PNB bad loans . . .

(From page B1)

In October, the central bank extended P15 billion while PDIC released another P10 billion to PNB to avoid systemic risk to the banking sector. The bank was then experiencing heavy withdrawals after majority shareholder Lucio Tan was seen to be wavering on a plan to acquire the government's stake in PNB and inject fresh capital.

"It is expected that the debt-to-equity conversion of the government will further boost PNB's capital to risk assets ratio which as of now already exceeds the required 10-percent ratio of the central bank," PNB said in a statement.

The government said earlier this week it was considering a "reverse privatization" by which it would buy Tan's stake in the bank and rehabilitate it until it becomes profitable and commands a better sale price.

The government has for now dropped plans to sell its remaining 16-percent stake in PNB along with Tan's 67-percent stake as one block due to current unfavorable market conditions. *With reports from Elena R. Torrijos and AFP*

BELOW PAR PERFORMANCE

Gov't to revise export targets

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is expected to rewrite its export targets for the year as the country's top dollar-earners—electronics and garments—have been performing below par so far this year.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the DTI would come out with the results of its export performance review by next month hinting a possible slash in the $40-billion target this year, up 5 percent from $38 billion last year.

"Garments are down and electronics are flat so obviously this would impact on our exports. But I am still optimistic that other export sectors could take up the slack like automotive parts," Roxas said.

Electronics and garments are the country's top two exports accounting for more than 80 percent of the country's dollar earnings. The lack of diversity in the country's export mix has made the Philippines vulnerable to the prevailing slump in the US economy, the biggest market for these products.

Based on the National Statistics Office's latest report, export revenues dropped by 0.5 percent to $8.56 billion in the first quarter this year from $8.607 billion.

The government has earlier projected flat growth this year for the electronics sector which reached $22.5 billion last year, but actual sales for the first quarter this year showed that the industry could be in for more turbulent skies.

The Garments and Textile Export Board reported that export growth slowed down to 2.02 percent to $982.902 million in the first four months this year from $963.48 million during the same period last year.

This is just a fraction of the industry's export growth rate of 11.6 percent during the same period last year. At this pace, the industry is way off its export target of $3.38 billion this year from $3.2 billion last year and the GTEB is likely to lower its target soon.

RP to import sugar worth

BY CARLA GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The country is set to import 116,000 metric tons of sugar worth about P1.4 billion starting June to meet a shortfall in domestic supply, Sugar Regulatory Administrator James Ledesma said.

Ledesma said the first shipment of 60,000 tons was expected to arrive in end-June. The importation will be done in phases until about September, he said.

Despite the planned importation, domestic demand for sugar was expected to remain tight, Ledesma said.

Ledesma said the SRA had estimated that local sugar production for this year would only be from 1.74-1.76 million MT, as against the demand of at least 1.9 million MT.

The importation next month is expected to fill in the gap between local production and demand.

He said the SRA was hoping to import an additional 50,000 MT but this might not happen because the prevailing price of sugar in the world market had been high.

Ledesma, however, said he did not expect the importation to affect the price of domestic sugar since the landed cost of imported refined sugar is expected to be about P1,250 per 50-kilo bag (lkg).

Domestic raw sugar is currently selling at P910 to P920 per lkg., while refined sugar is selling at P1,220 to 1,240 per lkg. The retail prices of sugar currently range from P25.50 to P28 per kilo, he added.

Ledesma said prevailing local prices were good because this allowed producers to get reasonable returns.

Ledesma added he did not expect the importation of sugar to affect local producers since 95 percent of the 2000-2001 crop had been completed.

He said the SRA would also ensure that the importation would not exceed the projected shortfall this year to protect domestic production in the next crop year.

Ledesma said the SRA aimed to keep the price of raw sugar within the range of P850 to P950 per lkg.

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May 24, 2001
THEME: S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS OF THE INDUSTRY
1:30 pm Roundtable Discussion
1:45 pm Industry Strengths
2:00 pm Industry Weaknesses
2:30 pm Industry Opportunities
2:45 pm Industry Threats /Challenges
3:00 pm Wrap up and Open Forum

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS
May 24, 2001 (Thursday)
11:00-12:00nn "Integrating Your Business Through the Internet" by: Eastern Telecoms
1:00-2:00pm "TNT Global Logistics Solutions-Storapart" by: TNT International
2:00-3:00pm "Internet Traffic Management Solutions" by: Leverage Systems Technology
3:00-3:30pm "Content Distribution & Delivery Network (Streaming Technology)" by: Infolibria c/o Intex Telecoms Systems
3:00-4:00pm "Critical Power Protection Systems & Solutions" by: MGE-Ups Systems Phils. Inc.
4:00-4:30pm "Building Futures with NetworkPlace" by: Getronics
5:00-5:30pm by: IBM Philippines
5:00-6:00pm "Open Software & Cabling Systems" by: Automation & Security Inc.
6:00-6:30pm "Buy USA.com" by: U.S. Commercial Service

May 25, 2001 (Friday)
10:00-11:00am Ascendas: "Asia's Foremost Business Space Solutions Provider is Here in the Philippines" by: Acendas (Phils.) Corp/JTC
10:30-11:00am "Internet Traffic Management & Content Delivery Network" by: F5 Networks c/o Intex Telecoms Systems
11:00-12:00nn "Redundant Parallel Architecture Fact or Fiction!" by: Victron
11:30-12:00nn "Intelliwhere" (Geo-Space & Location-Space in Fixed & Wireless Industry: Multi-Dimensional Solutions) by Intergraph Systems Sout-East Asia Pte. Ltd. (IGSEA)
12:00-1:00pm "Overcoming Barriers of Rural Telephony" by: Q-Telecel
1:00-1:30pm "Fiber Optic & Copper Cable Splice Cases" by: Preformed Line Products
1:00-2:00pm "e-Pay: The Prepaid Solutions" by: E-Pay Asia Philippines
2:00-2:30pm "Lyncole XIT Grounding System" by: Globaltek
2:00-3:00pm "E-conference" by: Solid Video Corporation
3:00-3:30pm "iPlanet" by: Sun Microsystems
3:00-4:00pm "Cabling Solutions for the Future" by: Brand Rex (Microwarehouse)
3:30-4:00pm by: Sun Microsystems
4:00-4:30pm "Deployment of Fiber Infrastructure for Optimum Network" (Flexibility in High Capacity Backbone & Access Networks) by: Tyco Electronics Phils., Inc.
4:00-5:00pm "Cost Effective Interactive White Board" by: Board Meeting Inc.
5:00-5:30pm by: IBM Philippines
5:00-6:00pm "The Web Crisis Today" by: On-Line
6:00-6:30am "Buy USA.com" by: U.S. Commercial Service

May 26, 2001 (Saturday)
10:00-11:00pm "High Availability DC Solutions for your Business Needs" by: American Power Conversion
11:00-12:00nn "What Should I Know About IBOC" (In-Band on-Channel AM/FM Digital Audio Broadcasting) by: Active Comm
1:00-1:30pm by: Kinetic Solutions
1:00-2:00pm "Communication Solution through Technology" by: DB International
2:00-2:30pm by: Molex Premise Networks
2:00-3:00pm "Work & Play with AV" by: Audio Visual Driver
3:00-3:30pm by: Porta Systems
3:00-4:00pm "Wireless Broadband: Powering the Future of Data Communication" by: Meridian Telecom
4:00-4:30pm by: Wireless Inc
4:00-5:00pm "Alert Me Now! Your Messaging Companion" by: 25*8
5:00-5:30pm by: IBM Philippines
6:00-6:30pm "Buy USA.com" by: U.S. Commercial Service

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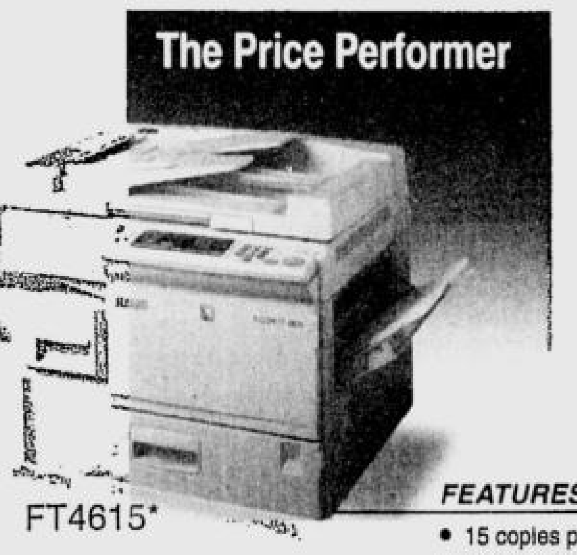

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Bobby's Baguio brawl

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

FORMER Trade Secretary Roberto Ongpin virtually admitted that he had a hand in the post-midnight raid by hooded gunmen earlier this month to retake a Baguio farmland that he claims rightfully belongs to him.

"I retook the property which was rightfully mine, and ejected the security guards of the Siys who were trespassing on my property," Ongpin said in a statement.

Ongpin and the Siy family, the latter own the Concorde Hotel in Baguio, are both claiming a three-hectare farm in Itogon, Benguet, with each side claiming that each has the genuine TCT to prove legitimate ownership.

Ongpin said he purchased the property—reportedly covering some 80 hectares, including the three claimed by the Siys—from Candido Simeon in 1977. This was two years before he joined the Marcos government in 1979, contrary to the insinuation by the Siys that he acquired the Itogon landholdings when he was already in the government.

"The property was never part of a forest preserve," Ongpin said, adding he has had lawful and legal possession of it for the past 24 years, planting it with citrus trees.

"On Saturday, April 21, the Siys, in cahoots with Mr. George Cardos, my former resident manager whom I fired a month before for dishonesty, accompanied by a troop of armed guards, seized the property from my farm people who were caught unaware," Ongpin said. "Thereafter, they attempted to fence off the property from the rest of my farm."

In retaliation, about 40 hooded gunmen armed with M16s and shotguns, allegedly under Ongpin's employ, raided the Siy farm past midnight of May 6 and overpowered the three security guards.

In addition to having ejected the Siy guards and barbed wiring the contested property—the concertina wire reportedly has "RAM" banners hung in strategic areas—Ongpin said he will also file a trespassing case against the Siys and several cases of estafa against his dismissed manager.

Smart questions

MONDAY'S reference to the "Edsa III" mallers that mobbed the opening of Price Smart in Fort Bonifacio was written figuratively, but the remote reference to Joseph Estrada may have accidentally unearthed some hidden truths about the popular store.

Consider these:

- The contract signing for the construction of the Bonifacio warehouse store was signed no less than in Malacañang, with you know who as witness.
- The local Chinoy franchisee also owns the City Garden Restaurant, the favorite caterer of 1 Polk St.
- The construction company that built the Price Smart store was Kanlaon Construction, whose owner is a member of the famous Ateneo High School Class of 1955. (How much did it actually cost to build the warehouse is an interesting question.)
- Among the honored guests who attended Friday's inauguration was staunch Erap defender Miriam Defensor-Santiago.
- After the Fort Bonifacio store, the second Price Smart is being planned in the DMCI site in Ortigas, the troubled construction company of the Consunjis, the same group that had been awarded the lucrative garbage hauling contract for Semirara Island by the previous administration.

Loose lips sink ships

BE careful of what you are to say on the cell phone; even cell phone-to-cell phone conversation can now be recorded.

One cell phone unit now available locally, the Siemens SL 45, has the capacity to record phone conversation of up to five hours; earlier models can record up to five minutes of conversation.

The SL 45, which also doubles as a Dictaphone, is quite ideal for journalists in that the scribblers no longer have to lug tape recorders around to take notes.

Short takes

- THE WORLDWIDE recall of Firestone tires by Ford also covers the Expeditions sold here by the local Ford dealers.
- SOME residents of Corinthian Gardens, not content with having ousted Jaime Dichaves (of the Jose Velarde fame) as chairman of the residents' association, now also want his name removed totally from their park, the Dichaves Park.

Heard through the grapevine

GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo and daughter Luli sneaked out of Malacañang Sunday night to watch the last full show of "15 Minutes" at the Robinsons Ermita mall. But mall rats spotted and mobbed them, and a lucky few managed to have themselves photographed with the Arroyos, that it took GMA and Luli all 20 minutes to negotiate the mall entrance up to the theater box.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

BSP keeps key overnight rates steady

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas left its key rates unchanged at the weekly meeting of the policy-making Monetary Board yesterday, citing a stable peso and the upcoming inflation data as reasons to hold the rates steady.

The only factor that would allow further cuts in the BSP rates, according to monetary authorities, is another rate cut by the US in Federal Reserve in June.

Last week's cut brought the BSP's overnight borrowing and lending rates back to year-ago levels at nine percent and 11.25 percent, respectively, from a peak of 15 percent and 17.25 percent in October last year.

"We decided to wait for the inflation numbers and the US Fed action. Anyway, rates are sufficiently low enough to encourage commercial lending," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

Analysts are counting on another 50 basis-points cut in the US rates next month but until this happens, the central bank said it would rather play it safe in view of fears of crude price increases.

A shortage of refined oil in the US and the possibility that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries would not agree to increase production would put pressure on crude prices.

The current BSP rates were anchored on the assumption that inflation would go down in the second half from 6.7 percent in the first half.

Buenaventura said banks should take their cue from BSP and should lower their lending rates as well to encourage businesses and individuals to borrow aggressively.

ABS-CBN plans expansion abroad

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., the flagship company of the Lopez family, yesterday said it was actively seeking to invest in television stations in Southeast Asia in line with the strategy of expanding its markets and spur future growth.

ABS-CBN chair and CEO Eugenio Lopez III also disclosed to reporters after the company's stockholders meeting yesterday that over P1 billion has been set aside to buy back company shares in the Philippine Stock Exchange.

For this year, company vice president for finance Randy Estrellado said ABS-CBN was planning to float P2 billion to P3 billion in local bonds in September to raise funds for the expansion.

Lopez said ABS-CBN should go beyond catering only to the local market. He said the company's programs were competitive enough to capture audience in foreign countries. In line with the new thrust, ABS-CBN is now scouting for potential acquisitions in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.

Lopez said ABS-CBN has been looking for such potential investment opportunities in the past 18 months.

The cost of the planned acquisitions, he said, would depend on the size of the companies ABS-CBN would be buying, although he noted that a deal with a company in the Asean would likely be forged soon. The expansion is also expected to encourage ABS-CBN to make its production values at par with those of foreign competitors.

"It's expansive but it's also defensive ... We have to be concerned about the fact that the Spanish soaps are very successful and they cater to half a billion Latin Americans. We're just producing programs to cater to 70 million Filipinos," he said.

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- In Effect box, click desired transition and other options
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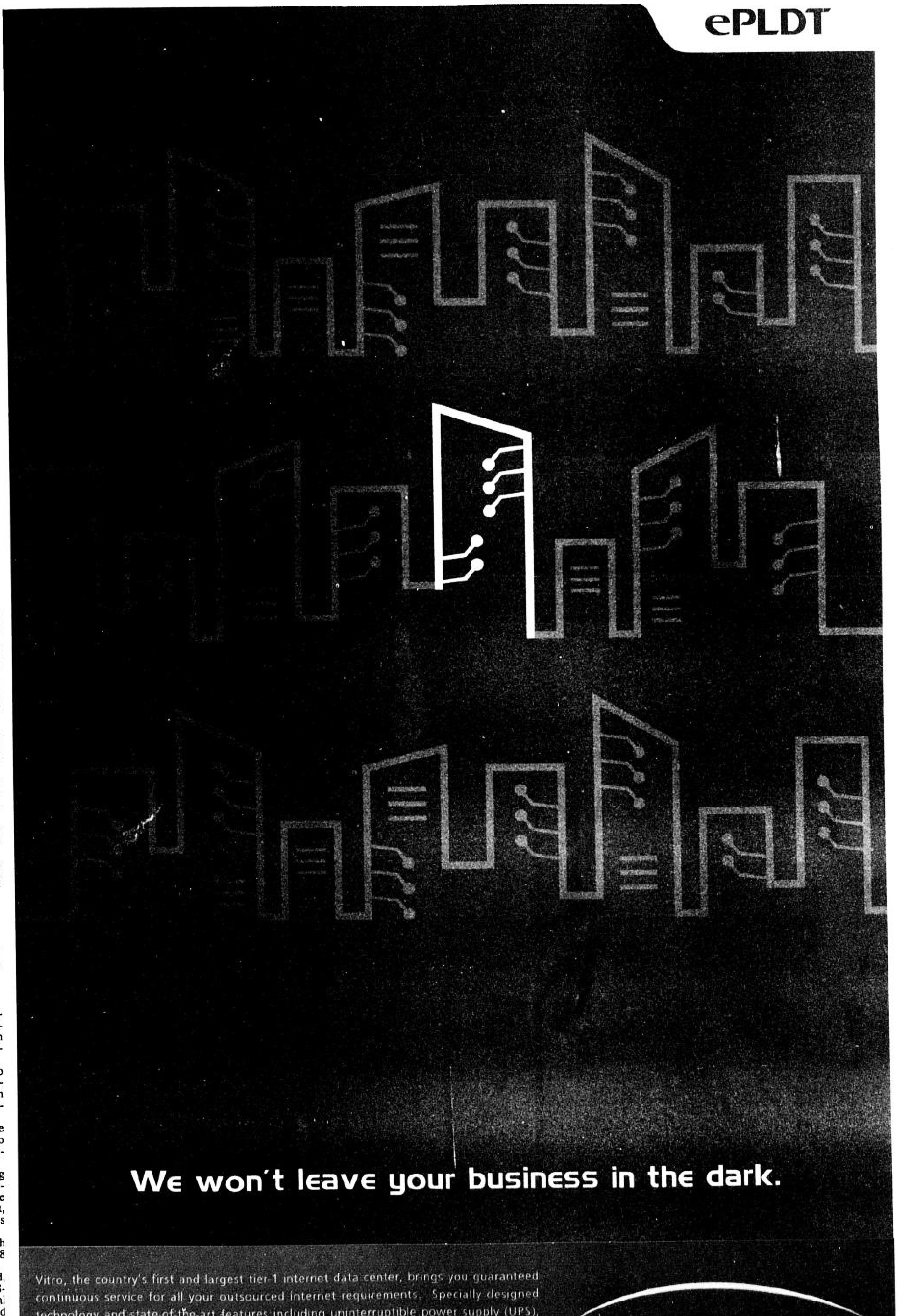
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Gov't to regain PNB control, but is it the right thing to do?

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

(Last of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

AFTER losing the window of opportunity to sell its 30-percent stake in Philippine National Bank without the shadow of Lucio Tan's control, the government now has little hope of selling its remaining 16-percent stake, which offers no control premium or great value to potential investors.

The government's more pressing problem now is to ensure the bank's viability while protecting its P25-billion debt exposure. These goals, at certain points, may conflict with one another.

Policy questions that should be answered: Would PNB be better off back in government hands even for a three-year period? Should the government get back full control through a 67-percent stake or a less than a 50-percent stake? Would a rehabilitation program proposed by PNB management make more sense than a reverse privatization? What other options does government have?

Current tack

The government has recently taken the new tack of a "reverse privatization" instead of prodding a joint sale with Tan. The plan, according to a high-ranking official of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, is that the government will convert a portion of its P25-billion loan into a 50-percent equity in PNB less one share, which allows the bank to escape the clutches of the Commission on Audit and the salary standardization law.

Moreover, the government will get voting rights or proxies from Tan so that together with its nearly 50-percent stake, it will have voting control of over 67 percent of the bank. With Tan's concurrence, the government will then appoint majority of the directors as well as the chair and president/chief executive of the bank. Tan will have veto power over the government's choices, initial and subsequent ones, until after three years. In three years, the government and Tan will jointly sell their stakes.

"So the whole idea (in relation to Tan) is, 'Mr. Government, you take over management, you take over a substantial portion, you dilute me and three years from now we both jointly sell,'" the central bank official said.

There is apparently a legal opinion that says the government may have a legal vehicle that will take the equity stake in PNB. The role of the Bangko Sentral is to give its seal of approval to the rehabilitation that meets the requirements of the agreement between Tan and the government.

"So they'll probably pay us in government securities, we give them the P15-billion loan, they convert the loan into equity," the official said.

In an interview, former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu said he believed the government should ensure that there would be no shares left with the tobacco magnate.

"It should be a 100-percent takeover of Lucio's shares. Why? He was the one who effectively managed the bank during the time the P25 billion was asked. It's not the fault of the government. (PNB needed the P25 billion)," he said.

Tan should not argue that he inherited PNB's problems, because he should have known what he was getting into before he bought the bank, Espiritu said.

The government should get back a 67-percent equity or absolute majority control of the bank, he recommended.

He also stressed that the government should make the process of nationalization and subsequent privatization transparent while protecting itself by a proper valuation.

"The valuation is very critical," he said.

If the valuation or conversion price is too high, the government will get too little for its loans and possibly leave Tan with a substantial equity stake.

Espiritu declined to comment on the reports that he received pressure from former President Joseph Estrada to allow Tan to take over the bank. He said he might testify soon enough before the Sandiganbayan involving plunder cases against Estrada.

Bad position

Former Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia was one of the first to criticize the Bangko Sentral and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. for lending P25 billion to PNB in October last year and then rolling the loan over in January. He was also the first to suggest a debt-to-equity conversion that the government did not think of when it lent to the bank.

Cuisia said the loan to PNB had put the government in a bad position because should the bank emerge a better bank in the next two to three years, it would be the private shareholders, under whom the bank's troubles started, that would benefit the most. But should the bank's financial position worsen, the government would absorb the biggest risk.

"At least, the government should have exacted from the private shareholders a bigger percentage of the equity (of PNB)," Cuisia said in an interview with the INQUIRER earlier this year. "The government should get a corresponding adjustment in its equity holdings because it paid the bail-out money."

Once the bank recovers, the government can sell its stake at a good price, according to Cuisia.

He estimated that the government could have taken control of the bank had the P25 billion been translated into an equity interest. He said instead of extending a loan, the government could have explored the equity concept and used a government-controlled corporation or vehicle like the National Development Corp. to take a stake in the bank in exchange for the bailout funds.

Espiritu also notes that the practice of the central bank or the PDIC when it gives advances has been to ask major shareholders of the borrowing or distressed bank to assign their shares over.

"Did they do that as a protection? If there were an assignment, then there would be validity really to take over. They do that to those seeking advances. So it would be easy now if you want to do a reverse privatization, you simply foreclose on the shares because it is pledged to you and then do a privatization again," Espiritu said.

The Bangko Sentral and PDIC admit they did not ask for an assignment of the shares from Tan and other PNB shareholders.

Either one will do

PNB itself is amenable to the government's nationalization program.

PNB president Feliciano Miranda Jr. said the bank welcomes the proposal as this will have the same effect as the bank's own rehabilitation plan wherein the interest cost from the P25-billion borrowing from the government will be substantially reduced if not eliminated.

Under the bank's proposed rehab plan, Tan will put in P10 billion, as he did in the second stock rights offering last year, and the government will lend the P25 billion to bankroll the bank's lending operations.

Asked why PNB accepted the P25-billion loan at market rates when that wasn't part of the agreement with the Bangko Sentral and PDIC in the first place, Miranda explained that the government was going to restructure it but was still trying to make some decisions at the time.

"If you will notice sometime last November, the DOF and BSP came out with a joint statement. PNB can have this P25 billion as long as they need it and it's going to be part of a rehabilitation plan. That was really the scheme. It's just they were still working out the exact terms of the rehab plan," Miranda, a former BSP official, said.

Who me?

The Bangko Sentral had since, however, backtracked from initial statements suggesting that Miranda's version of the fact was correct. The spin from the monetary authority now is that the Bangko Sentral and PDIC lent the P25 billion to PNB to stem the impact of a bank run.

"There was substantial withdrawal but that's the point of it. The withdrawal was not really as big as that," Miranda said, adding that the withdrawals came in largely only after the P25-billion loan came out in the papers.

An analysis of the deposit withdrawals of PNB last year bear credence to the bank chief's statements.

In the second quarter of last year, as Finance Secretary Jose Pardo moved for a joint sale with Tan, PNB started losing deposits. Based on PNB's published statements of condition, the bank's deposit base was at P142 billion as of June 26 last year. In the third quarter of the year, as Tan's P10-billion infusion came in, deposits declined by 5 percent, or by P6 billion, to slightly under P136 billion. Disaster, however, happened in the fourth quarter, when deposits fell P13 billion to around P123 billion by late December.

So in the second half, PNB lost deposits of roughly P20 billion, but it received a P10-billion infusion from Tan and the P25-billion loan from government that, taken together, amounted to a P20-billion outflow against a P35-billion inflow during the period.

On Jan. 18 this year, right before the change in government and at the height of People Power II, the Monetary Board, the policymaking body of the central bank, approved the PNB's proposed rehabilitation plan in principle. According to sources who have seen the plan, it has written all over it the initials of former Estrada economic adviser Gabriel Singson who, as a lawyer and former BSP governor, was valuable in helping Tan craft the rehabilitation package. Singson's relationship to Tan poses as a possible conflict of interest as the ex-central banker has surfaced in the new administration as presidential consultant on banking affairs.

ESPIRITU

Officials and supporters of the new government soon got wind of the Monetary Board decision and put a stop to the implementation of that rehabilitation plan. The government's problem now is how to deal with the central bank given that two of Estrada's Ateneo classmates, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura and Nonong Alindogan, and Estrada's brother-in-law, Juan Quintos Jr., are members of the Monetary Board. Appointed by the ousted leader in June 1999, the three have fixed six-year terms

Paying each other

PNB is targeting to increase its deposit base by P17 billion to P18 billion this year.

Miranda said should the government pay its debts to PNB, especially those considered as bad loans amounting to P10 billion, by offsetting the PDIC equivalent debt, then the bank would be able to pay off the P15 billion it owed to the central bank within the year.

"A large amount of loans of the PNB is to government agencies and they have not been paying for it. For example, customs. They have this SGS inspection of the imports and PNB paid for them with the understanding that they are going to be reimbursed (by the government) later. But up to now, they have not reimbursed PNB. There is this large amount for the sugar transactions of PNB (to government) in the past," Miranda said.

"We want it (P10 billion in bad loans) really to be paid. The P15 billion, that's not a problem. We can pay it, less than one year, definitely," he said.

He said while the rehabilitation plan had yet to be finalized with the new administration, the bank was focusing on improving its financial position.

"We are trying to improve our collection methods. The loans we have at the moment were granted largely before our administration and a large amount of these loans have gone past due. During our stay here, that is our principal job: trying to restructure, to extend, trying to collect these loans," he said.

The bank's executive committee meeting is now held twice a week while the board meets twice instead of once a month to examine how the collection of bad loans can be improved.

"We are also, of course, granting loans, but basically to those clients we've had before who have been handling their loan accounts satisfactorily. We are not giving up on them, of course. We are continuing to support them. And then we have very substantial loans to the local government units," Miranda said.

In essence, Miranda's argument is that PNB needs the P25 billion so the bank can recover from the sins of the past.

At the end of Espiritu's term in 1992, the bank's loan portfolio amounted to around P30 billion, with a non-performing loan ratio of less than 2 percent, mostly covering the bad sugar loans of the Marcos era. During the four years before 1992, PNB was reporting large profits, from P1.3 billion to P4 billion.

Afterward, from 1992 to 1995, during the management of Singson and Arsenio Bartolome III, the bank entered into an aggressive expansion phase. From P30 billion, loans grew to P70 billion by 1995. Peter Favila, who was taken in by Tan as president of Allied Banking Corp. in 1998, took over the reins of the bank in 1995 and continued the expansionary program of his predecessor. Two years later, by 1997, the bank's loan portfolio had doubled to P140 billion. It was during this time, when caution was thrown to the wind, that almost the entire existing bad loan portfolio of PNB was incurred.

During the time of Espiritu protégé Benjamin Palma-Gil, PNB hardly lent at all. The bank, however, as Espiritu testified in the impeachment trial against Estrada, granted a behest loan of P600 million to the group of gaming businessman Dante Tan.

Vigilance and speed

Espiritu said his biggest worry now about PNB was that Tan could spin off and transfer directly under his control valuable businesses of the bank. He cited the case of beleaguered flag carrier Philippine Airlines Ltd., where profitable businesses were spun off and transferred to companies that Tan nearly fully owned.

In its plan of operations for 2001 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, PNB said: "In addition, the bank will sell within a year, a non-allied subsidiary and a holding property company."

Espiritu noted that PNB's most valuable assets now were its PNB Remittance Center—a large moneymaker for the bank—the Hong Kong-based operations and some prime real estate holdings.

Meanwhile, given PNB's history under government control, the dilemma is also how to prevent the bank from being abused again if government would save the bank through a debt to equity conversion.

That's why, Espiritu said, only one or two years after the nationalization of PNB, government should get out of banking. His thinking is government should try to get out of banking altogether, except for one bank.

"Even then, I wanted to limit it to DBP. Even Landbank, I didn't like. It's better to give banking to the private sector. After all, private sector banks can service the commercial banking requirement of government," Espiritu said.

In the meantime, the government is preparing for PNB's annual stockholders meeting on Tuesday. The new administration is expected to put in at least three nominees replacing some of Estrada's previous nominees.

DISCLOSURES

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. has declared a 12-centavo cash dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of June 28 and payable not later than July 12.

***

MATSUSHITA Electric Philippines Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 15, 5 p.m., at the company's Human Development Center, Ortigas Avenue Extension, Taytay, Rizal. Only stockholders of record as of May 25 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

SANITARY Wares Manufacturing Corp. has announced the resignation of Naganather Vijayanathan as director and Graham Davies as president of the company. Elected as director and acting president was Arnel Aranas.

***

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. has announced the resignation of Wilfrido Vergara, Edilberto Javier, Romuald Dy Tang and Oscar Lopez-Dee as directors of the company. Appointed chair of the board was Antonio Go, while Deogracias Vistan was elected director. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, May 24, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	76	76	75.5	76	318,300
China Banking Corp.	610	610	610	610	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42	42	41.5	41.5	49,900
First E-Bank Corp.	2	2	2	2	7,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	214	215	210	212	145,290
Philippine National Bank	52.5	52.5	51.5	51.5	60,700
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29.5	29	29.5	9,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	25	25	25	25	7,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	200,000
Filipino Fund Inc	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	590,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	247	247	247	247	50
Manulife Financial Corp.	1275	1275	1275	1275	4,130
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	37,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1150	1150	1105	1110	1,410
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40.5	42	40.5	42	7,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	200,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	685	685	685	685	5,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	1,000
Piltel	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	650,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	710	710	685	685	91,880
Ivantage Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	310,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.044	0.045	185,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41.5	42.5	41.5	42	14,300
Manila Electric Co. B	56.5	57	56	57	689,000
Petron Corp.	1.86	1.98	1.86	1.94	11,825,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	140,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.26	1.26	448,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.96	2.08	1.96	2.02	31,352,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.39	410,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1	1.42	1	1.42	410,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	-	-	-	-	-
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	225,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.12	2.12	50,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.05	1,009,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.25	137,400
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	28	28	28	28	21,000
RFM Corp.	1	1	1	1	480,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46	46.5	44.5	46.5	176,800
San Miguel Corp. B	49.5	49.5	49.5	49.5	57,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6	6	6	6	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.75	0.75	0.71	0.71	170,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	20,000
Ayala Corp.	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.3	8,811,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.46	1.5	1.46	1.46	1,233,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12	2,800
A. Soriano Corp.	0.4	0.46	0.4	0.41	1,850,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	130,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.36	1.42	1.36	1.38	3,476,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	30,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.21	0.22	0.2	0.22	640,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	970,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	259,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24.25	25	24.25	24.75	1,694,700
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	130,000
Global Equities, Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	30,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	150,000
Ionics Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2.04	2	2.04	24,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.76	1.98	1.76	1.88	64,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	40,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	1,570,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	100,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	60,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.5	3,790,000
Unioil Res & Holdings Co.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	420,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1	1.02	1	1.02	39,000
Music Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.65	62,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	9,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.46	0.44	0.46	610,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc. F	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	630,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	41	41	40.5	40.5	276,700
Cosmos Bottling Corp-Pref	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4,000
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	505	505	505	505	2,000
Jollibee Warrants	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	14,100
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Omico Corporation Warrant	0.0032	0.0032	0.003	0.003	220,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.035	0.036	0.034	0.035	68,300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.5	3,063,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	3,110,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,520,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.16	2.18	2.12	2.12	3,063,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
SM Development Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	70,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	3,142,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	500,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	2,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	1,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	3,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	120,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	6,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.21	2,420,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,310,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	500,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	12,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	12,000,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.014	0.012	0.014	39,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,200,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	60,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,432,480	68,594,160.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	500,006,580	354,444,760.00
PRO	14,648,000	45,893,640.00
Mining	141,630,000	1,882,400.00
OIL	67,760,000	730,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	725,477,060	471,545,160.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	606.18	DOWN 2.24
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,969.76	DOWN 8.44
PRO	555.07	DOWN 8.25
Mining	1,219.56	DOWN 4.52
OIL	1.48	UP 0.03
All Shares Index	761.10	DOWN 6.00
Composite	1,434.68	DOWN 11.52

NO. OF ADVANCES: 29; NO. OF DECLINES: 37; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 48;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 114; NO. OF TRADES: 2,700

CURRENCIES

May 24, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.166725	1.000000	50.4380
Japan	Yen	0.009727	0.008337	0.4205
United Kingdom	Pound	1.656516	1.419800	71.6119
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.149589	0.128213	6.4668
Switzerland	Franc	0.656017	0.562272	28.3599
Canada	Dollar	0.752532	0.644995	32.5323
Singapore	Dollar	0.647821	0.555247	28.0055
Australia	Dollar	0.605650	0.519103	26.1825
Bahrain	Dinar	3.094926	2.652661	133.7949
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.311093	0.266638	13.4487
Brunei	Dollar	0.643001	0.551116	27.7972
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000088	0.0044
Thailand	Baht	0.025670	0.022002	1.1097
UAE	Dirham	0.317692	0.272294	13.7340
Korea	Won	0.000908	0.000778	0.0392
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.857100	43.2304
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.438228	22.1033
France	Franc	0.152450	0.130664	6.5904
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.388935	19.6171
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.062288	3.1417
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021247	1.0717
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000443	0.0223
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.144154	7.2708
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004275	0.2156
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005151	0.2598
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	0.021247	1.0717
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.088293	54.8913

The Pinoy working migrants in USA

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

NEVADA—While my family and I were vacationing in the West Coast, I took the opportunity to meet our *kababayans* in Stockton, San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco, California, as well as Seattle, Washington and Hawaii.

I want to share with you my insights on their work, lifestyle, family life and their search for the Pinoy-American dream.

They have an entirely different lifestyle now and some of them do speak with an American twang. But their hearts and manners are still essentially Pinoy. They still eat *bagoong* in Stockton. In South Lake Tahoe, they cook chicken with *malunggay*—even if five stalks of *malunggay* cost $7.50 or a cool P375—just to please us, visiting relatives.

They give up their bedrooms for us and they willingly drive us from Seattle to San Diego in their new Expedition.

The Tijamo Brothers in Stockton

Stockton is a farming county in northeast of LA and about two hours away from San Francisco. You can see there thousands of acres planted with apples, oranges, grapes, peaches and vegetables.

There are a dozen of cattle ranches where you can get the Angus beef minus the mad cow disease. There is a large and expanding Pinoy community, mostly Visayans and the Tijamo brothers are one of them.

The Tijamos come from Alcantara and Moalboal, Cebu, in a barrio called Tunga. The original Tijamo brothers were Ciano and Terio who were born in Hawaii to their migrant parents, who used to work in the sugarcane and pineapple farms in the Big Island.

Ciano and Terio, who went home to the Philippines in their teens, work in Stockton with their wives and children. Some of their children are in the university and they are prosperous with three to four houses each and with four to five cars in every garage.

They send *balikbayan* boxes regularly to their cousins in Cebu. They work hard and enjoy life to the fullest. I consider them the best examples of successful migrants in the United States. I promised that I would write a book about them someday.

The casino workers in Tahoe

South Lake Tahoe is a gambling city right at the boundary of California and Nevada, an eight-hour drive from LA to the northeast direction of Reno passing through Stockton and Sacramento.

It's supposed to be spring break in US toward the end of April but snowstorms and blizzards are daily occurrences in Tahoe.

But with or without snow, the high rollers from neighboring cities still come to Tahoe. It is cooler here compared to the sweltering deserts in Las Vegas and Reno.

The card dealers, cashiers, waiters and janitors in Harrahs, Harveys, Ceasars Palace and Horizons casinos are Pinoys, mostly Ilocanos and Boholanos with some Cebuanos.

Among them are Telene and Maridel, Jenkens, Mark, and Mickael, the cousins of the Tijamos in Stockton with their mom, Nene. They work hard too, braving the graveyard shifts to make the casino gamblers feel good and well served. And they earn good money in wages and tips, not to mention insurance and pension plans.

Pinoy families in California

A very personable auntie, Patzie Jimenez, who now works for Southwest Airlines, told us that you could see more Pinoys than Americans in malls, offices, churches or parks in some cities or counties in Southern California.

I've met a lot of them, including Patzie's five sons and two daughters with their respective families. They all work hard, get paid well and also pay big taxes to Uncle Sam.

I also have a godson, Lito Valdez, and his wife, Nenen who just bought a big beautiful house in Riverside County in a city called Murrietta, halfway between LA and San Diego.

This guy drives to work for almost two hours one way and keep a very good balance between career and family. Our *compadre*, Celso Ballesteros, is starting a career in Daly City, a place where 80 percent of the residents are Pinoy, including the city mayor.

Entrepreneurs in Seattle and Honolulu

There is a Cebuano family who made it good in Seattle, the Dismes. They don't work for others. They work for themselves. They put up a bakeshop called "Delite Bakery" in Peacock Hill and they have a booming business.

These guys started from their brother's bakery "Tinong's," in Tabunoc, Talisay, Cebu. Today, their *pan de sal*, *pan de coco* and *ensaymada* are literally selling like hotcakes in Seattle. My cousin, Pesing Aballe who married an American, is the trusted head sales person. They are doing very well.

Another couple who operates a string of businesses, including a bakery too, is Jun Lucero of Honolulu. He comes from Dumanjug, Cebu, and is now one of the successful businessmen in Hawaii.

Happy Hawaiian Pinoys

The last week of our vacation was spent in the beautiful island of Hawaii. My parents are US citizens and our youngest brod, Jonathan, resides in Pearl City. Nathan works as a highway patrol officer in the city and county of Honolulu. They have a network of Pinoy migrants as friends and we come together and have a beach party whenever we get the chance to visit.

I have a friend there, Lawyer Frankie Mariano, who is a successful insurance broker and his wife, Emma, operates a care home for the aged. Baby Irojo, our *kababayan* from Ronda, has a similar business.

Our friends Pedro and Linda Languita and the rest of the Pinoy community in Honolulu are all happy folks, also hardworking but more easy go lucky than the ones in the US mainland.

The Hawaiian Pinoys are proud that both the incumbent governor and the Miss USA are Filipinos.

What I learned from my interactions with all of them was that Filipinos can succeed in life and work anywhere as long as he works hard, persevere and always think positive.

Above all, I learned that Filipinos will never ever forget their family back home.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)

More foreign brokers set to stop operations

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is bracing for another exodus of foreign brokerage houses as the listless trade in the local stock market left these brokers in dire financial straits.

PSE president Ramon T. Garcia yesterday said in a television interview that he had received word that more foreign houses were on the verge of suspending operations due to scarce trading opportunities in the local market.

This developed as two more foreign brokerage houses, Nomura Securities and UOB Securities, affiliates of big banks in Japan and Singapore, respectively, announced that they were shelving their Philippine operations to cut losses.

Other foreign brokerage houses, on the other hand, were coping with the financial crunch through belt-tightening measures.

ABN Amro Securities, for instance, has trimmed its workforce and transferred some research staff to the ABN Amro group's more profitable investment banking unit, to survive the weak market.

Garcia said these firms had to suspend operations because of mounting losses. Meager profits from local trading, he said, were no longer enough to cover for surging operating expenses.

"It's possible that some more foreign brokerage houses will also seek suspension as I've already been told. It's been difficult to continue operating in the Philippines because of the thin market," he said.

Because of this development, Garcia appealed to the Securities and Exchange Commission to suspend the broker-dealer rule, noting this might help reverse the losing streak especially of these big foreign houses.

Some five foreign brokerage houses, including Nomura and UOB, have shut down operations since the implementation of the controversial Securities Regulation Code last year.

The three other earlier casualties were the local units of Sun Hung Kai Securities of Hong Kong and OCBC Securities of Singapore, as well as Orion Squire Capital Inc., a unit of the Tong Yang group of Korea.

The broker-dealer rule prevented the brokerage houses from trading for its own account if it also handles accounts of customers unless is gets licenses from the SEC to do both.

This was supposed to prevent a conflict of interest as brokers would execute its own orders ahead of its clients.

The PSE, however, vehemently opposed the rule saying that it prevented brokers from doing more trades.

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MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

How to turn sleeping giants into brand champions

BY MICHELLE V. REMO

ONE OF the original rules of marketing that can never change is the need to know one's audience. Lourdes Claravall, senior vice president of the Bank of the Philippines Islands, stresses, "Everything begins and ends with the consumer . . ."

In the process of knowing the target market, Claravall, who spoke during the 32nd National Marketing Conference of the Philippine Marketing Association, explains the importance of market segmentation, which is a process of "identifying subgroups within the total market."

She says packaging a product depending on a specific consumer group is always an advantage. An example of such a product is the Enervon Prime, which is the Enervon drink for people above 50 and which promises to keep the old ones feel "young."

Asked how should a marketer communicate with the target market, Claravall gives the relation of the "content" and "context" as an answer.

She says the product is the company's content while insights of consumers are the context. She enumerates the points in "contexting" product appeal. One is values, which are what people believe and adhere to, such as friendship, family ties, and profession.

The San Miguel Beer commercials use the value of friendship, thus the line "Iba ang may pinagsamahan."

PLDT, on the other hand, uses the value of family ties, thus the commercial of a mother constantly calling her son "Billy" to keep in touch.

Another point for "contexting," explains Claravall, is the Pinoys' love for comedy, movie stars and basketball athletes. This explains why Sharon Cuneta, Michael V., Michael Jordan, Fernando Poe Jr., etc are always seen in many ad campaigns.

Aside from the idea of relating "content and context," Lowe Lintas and Partners president Mariles Gustilo gives four other points needed to "Turn sleeping giants into brand champions," the title of her talk.

These four points are insight, governing idea, good story and a great group.

Gustilo cited the case of Surf, whose television ad campaign is considered a success. The insight is that housewives like to be called as smart homemakers. The governing idea used is that a smart homemaker knows how to be cost efficient and to stretch a household budget.

Surf's story of Lumen, a young housewife, adapts well to this insight. The message the ad wants to impart is that by buying Surf, which is cheaper and whose quality is allegedly the same as the more expensive brands, the homemaker is being smart.

The ad on the BPI express payment system uses the insight of working individuals who need to cope with numerous tasks at home. The governing idea is that busy people need not worry so much about paying their bills. Thus the story about a busy mom who keeps on forgetting to pay house bills is saved by the BPI express payment system.

The last point, according to Gustilo, is to have a great group. This requires the involvement of people working as a team who can deliver a good ad campaign. "Collaboration isn't only desirable; it is non-negotiable," says Gustilo.

ABS-CBN senior vice president for sales and marketing, Nicanor Gabunada, stresses the advantage of "exploiting change." He explains that the television station, having known the increasing demands for information amid the advent of new technology, ventures into other businesses like print, film, AM and FM radio, cable network, and music recording, to make sure that they are present in whatever field that can be profitable.

Smart Communications personal communication head Anastacio Martinez, on the other hand, explains the use of "killer applications." Smart claims to have gotten the larger market share against their primary competitor in the mobile phone business by using killer application.

He defines killer application as making their product truly competitive by increasing its features in accordance with the consumers' needs and pricing in accordance with their spending elasticity.

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Looking for 'Made in the USA' made easy

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

SMALL and medium-sized businesses in the country, especially those in the provinces, are constantly on the lookout for possible tie-ups with American companies to expand their operations and increase their product lines.

SMEs target American products and services because of the Filipinos' preference for anything "made in the USA."

Today, however, only the bigger SMEs get the chance to actually shop around for opportunities to do business with companies in the United States because of the huge cost involved—plane tickets, hotel stay, etc

If they go through the Internet, they are saddled with other problems such as difficulty in searching for ideal partners and the concerns that the online companies may not be legitimate

The US government came up with a solution called BuyUSA.com, a government website created by the US Commercial Service and IBM Corp. that links overseas buyers or those seeking to establish business relationships with US suppliers of goods and services.

George Ruffner, senior commercial officer at the US Embassy in Manila, says in a briefing that SMEs will be directly benefited by the website as they can immediately check out US companies that they want to do business with at no cost to them.

"Our primary function is creating perfect matches. We've done it successfully for 20 years around the world, building trust and confidence both internationally and in the US, and now we're doing it online," Ruffner explains.

Jerry Mitchell, acting director general of the US Commercial Service, says during a video conference that the website protects buyers by evaluating the American companies who want to showcase their products and services on the website.

The US Department of Commerce prequalifies the companies on the website based on their track record and performance. These companies also have to be in business for at least a year before they can be included in the list of suppliers.

Philippine buyers, on the other hand, will simply log on to the BuyUSA.com site and fill out the registration form. The access is free and the buyer will immediately gain access to companies selling a whole array of products.

Some American companies, Ruffner says, will be looking for representatives here to market their products or even possible joint venture partners.

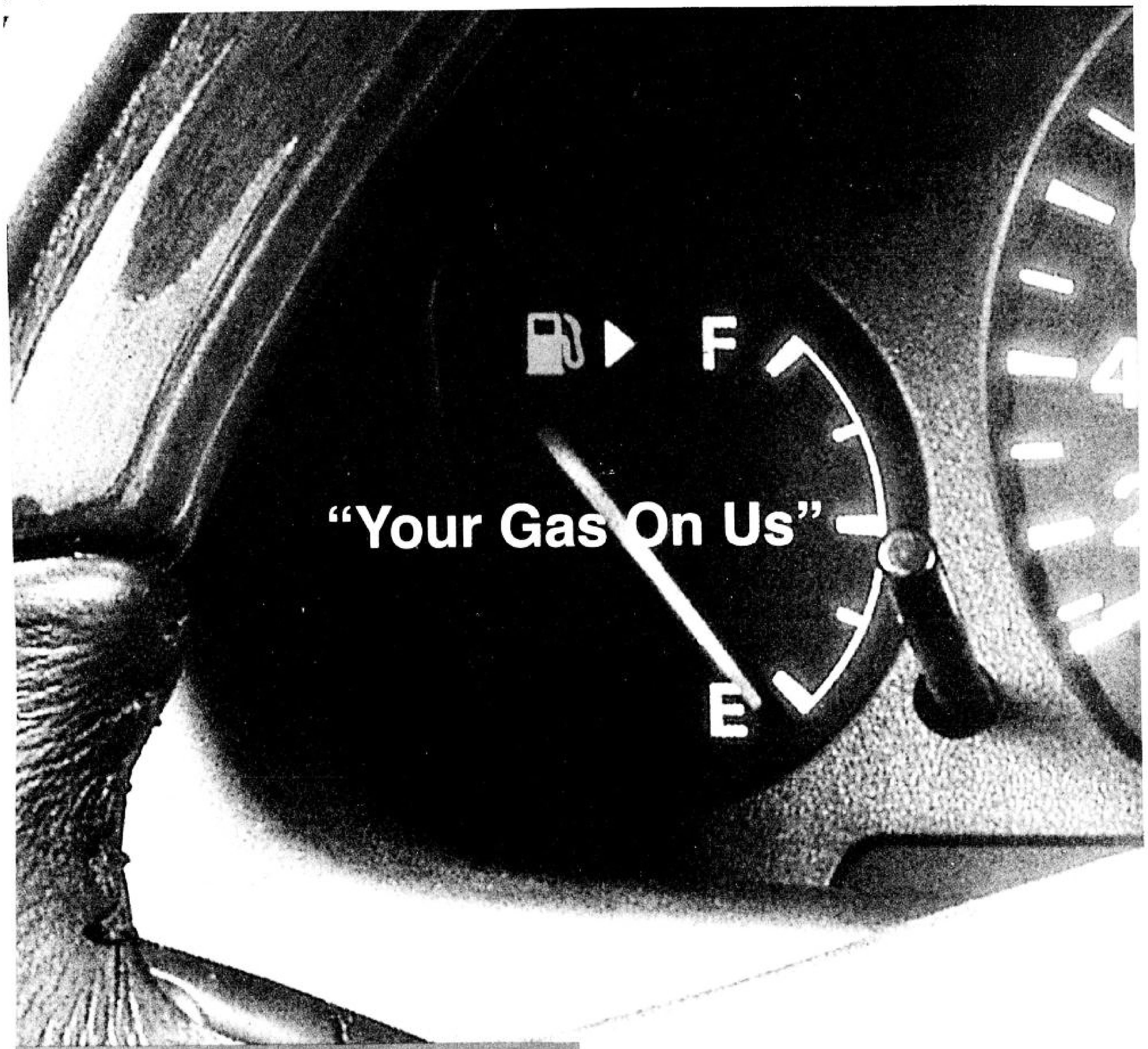
The business-to-business portal currently has 2,000 registered companies with 3,859 registered buyers. The Philippines is the first country outside the United States to gain access to the website, to be followed shortly by Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, New Zealand and Australia.

Mitchell explains that the United States decided to put up the site in the Philippines first because of the long trade history between the two countries and the fact that the US is the Philippines' biggest trade partner.

The Philippines imported $8.8 billion worth of American products and services last year, 22 percent higher than 1999 levels and $900 million worth of agricultural products, making the Philippines the US 12th largest market for agricultural products.

The US, on the other hand, imported $14 billion worth of Philippine products and services last year, up 13 percent from the previous year. This makes the Philippines the 17th largest source of imports for the US.

"I believe that the trade will even increase trade between the two countries. I don't think it will just replace other trading facilities because it will open up a lot of business opportunities on both sides," Mitchell explains.



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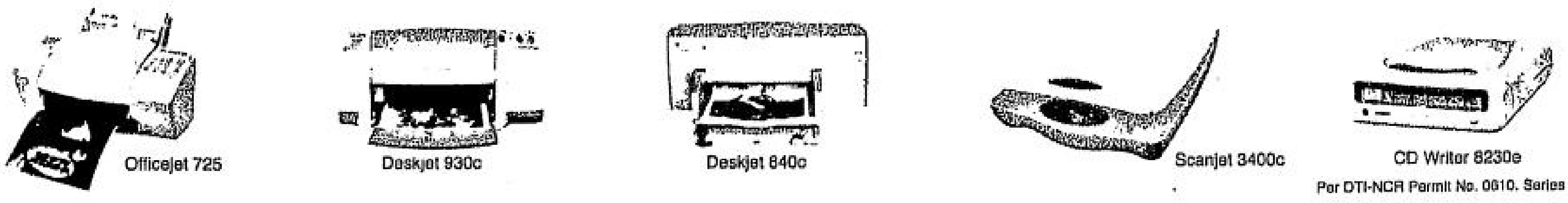


Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0610, Series of 2001.

Before 13-0, there was 10-0

BY MARY ANN L. VILLAMOR
SGV and Co.

TAX-FILES

AS OF this writing, canvassing of the election returns for the May 14 national and local polls has barely began. The voting public eagerly awaits the results of the recent polls particularly that of the senatorial race. Any number between 0-13 is equally likely and until the last election return has been canvassed by the Comelec, the winning number remains to be a guessing game.

There is yet another question of numbers that has become a guessing game as well but hopefully not for long. This time it involves the proper rate of value-added tax (VAT) that must be imposed on services rendered by VAT-registered taxpayers to non-residents which services are paid for in foreign currency inwardly remitted into the Philippines. Should the VAT rate be 10 percent, as the BIR would want it to be? Or no VAT as sellers of service would rather have it?

As a general rule, all sales of services performed in the Philippines are subject to 10 percent VAT unless it is exempt under Section 107 of the Tax Code or subject to no VAT under Section 108(B) of the same Code.

Section 108(B)(1) provides that processing, manufacturing or repacking goods for others doing business outside of the Philippines which goods are subsequently exported where the services are paid for in acceptable foreign currency and accounted for in accordance with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas rules shall be subject to zero VAT.

On the other hand, Section 108(B)(2) provides that services other than those mentioned in the preceding paragraph performed in the Philippines by a VAT-registered person will be subject to zero percent VAT as long as paid for in the manner required in Section (B)(1). As worded, Section 108(B)(2) encompasses all services that a VAT taxpayer may render in favor of a non-resident foreign client. So long as these services are paid for in the prescribed manner, these services shall be subject to zero VAT.

Following this provision, the BIR has treated all kinds of services rendered by VAT taxpayers to non-resident foreign clients as subject to zero VAT so long as these services are paid for in foreign currency inwardly remitted and accounted in accordance with BSP rules. This has been the rule until the BIR came out with VAT Ruling No. 040-98 in November 1998.

The issue in the said ruling was whether the services rendered by travel agents in the Philippines in favor of foreign tourists that are paid for in acceptable foreign currency and accounted in accordance with BSP rules are subject to zero VAT. In resolving the issue, the BIR partly relied on the regulations, which implemented Section 108(B)(2) of the Tax Code.

As a backgrounder, Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 7-95, specifically Section 4.102-2(b)(2) implement Section 108(B)(2) [formerly Section 102(B)(2)] of the Tax Code. Originally, Section 102-2(b)(2) was a mere reproduction of the Tax Code provision. However, with the issuance of RR 6-97, Section 102-2(b)(2) was amended to read as follows:

"(b) Transactions Subject to Zero Percent (0%) Rate—The following services performed by VAT-registered persons shall be subject to zero percent rate:

* * *

(2) Services other than processing, manufacturing or repacking for other persons doing business outside the Philippines of goods which are subsequently exported, as well as services by a resident to a non-resident foreign client, such as project studies, information services, engineering and architectural designs, and other similar services, the consideration for which is paid for in acceptable foreign currency and accounted for in accordance with the rules and regulations of the BSP."

At the time VAT Ruling No. 040-98 was issued, RR 6-97 already amended RR 7-95. As amended, Section 102-2(b)(2) provides two groups of services subject to zero VAT. These are:

(1) Services other than processing, manufacturing or repacking for other persons doing business outside the Philippines of goods which are subsequently exported, and;

(2) Services by a resident to a non-resident foreign client such as project studies, information services, engineering and architectural designs.

In the said ruling, the BIR said that the services rendered by the travel agents in favor of the foreign tourist, not being in the same class or nature as studies, information services, engineering and architectural designs, are not subject to zero percent VAT. In effect, the BIR has limited the scope of Section 108(2)(b) of the Tax Code to only those types of services enumerated in RR 7-95, as amended by RR 6-97.

However, is this limitation warranted in the light of the broad language of Section 108(2)(b) of the

BEFORE/ B11

eBook moves to take over PDAs by going to the provinces

BY AMELITA R. REMO

MARKETING STRATEGY

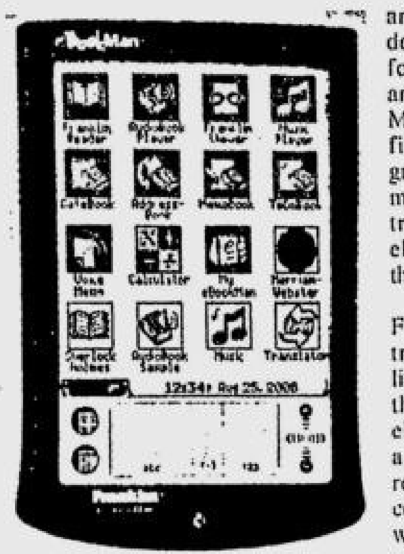
MANY professionals have exchanged their organizers for personal digital assistants, those little gadgets with small screens and stylus pens where appointments, telephone numbers and memos can be stored.

The market is growing rapidly as those who can afford it are attracted to its many features and stylish look. It has also become something of a status symbol with young urban professionals.

Even as the PDA users number only a few thousands, a new product has entered the market that will compete with PDAs.

First Convergent Communications Worldwide Inc. and Alemar's Booklight are confident that its eBookMan or electronic book will eventually enjoy a similar success as the PDAs.

FCC president and chief executive officer Ben Maynigo tells the INQUIRER that they hope to duplicate the success of PDAs by targeting a specific market—the academic community.



How they are going to do this is by focusing on areas outside Metro Manila first. The group will immediately distribute the eBookMan in the provinces.

Created by Franklin Electronic Publishers Inc. of the US, the eBookMan is a multimedia reader and content player with an advanced software that allows one to read or listen to books, hear music, take notes, record a message, schedule a meeting or synchronize functions with Microsoft Outlook.

Unlike the ordinary PDAs, the eBookMan contains a larger display. It weighs 6.5 ounces.

Its starting memory of 8MB or 16MB is expandable up to 64MB by using an industry standard multimedia card slot, enabling the user to download around 100 ebooks and about 15 to 20 MP3s.

One can also enjoy a multimedia experience since the eBookMan comes with a built-in speaker, microphone and headphone jack.

Maynigo says the features of the eBookMan are superior to the PDAs and these make the electronic book very useful for people who have to read a lot whether for school or work.

He, however, admits that the only way to make the market believe it and then buy the product is to show them how the eBookMan works.

"We are going to the different schools to show them how to use the eBookMan instead of reading books. They will be able to see that it is much better and easier to use," Maynigo explains.

FCC Worldwide formed partnerships with religious and graduate schools and launched the eBookMan by converting MBA books, modules, course materials and syllabi into a format that can be accessed through the eBookMan.

FCC Worldwide has already established tie-ups with Asian Institute of Management (AIM), De La Salle University, University of the Philippines, and International Academy of Management and Economics.

FCC Worldwide also tapped the National Historical Institute for the history books as well as dotcom industries such as Soundbuzz.com for audio books and MP3s. St. Paul's Publishing was also contracted for the conversion of various religious materials such as prayer booklets and inspirational books.

Maynigo says the timing was right to launch the eBookMan as school opening is just around the corner. He says FCC Worldwide is rushing to establish more tie-ups with schools nationwide, as well as various government sectors and professional associations.

Maynigo says professionals such as lawyers and doctors were the initial buyers of the eBookMan although he hopes to see more students using the eBookMan.

"Anyone who loves books, music or information or just plain getting organized would find the eBookMan a very useful tool," Maynigo says.

He explains that they immediately set up distribution outlets in the provinces since there is a huge untapped market in these areas.

The eBookMan is now available in places such as Butuan, Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Cebu and also in the Internet.

"We are aware of the Filipino's love for books and that is why we have brought the eBookMan to the local market at very affordable prices," Maynigo said.

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OFC STAFF 9134470 REY

•OFC Staff 9134470 Aynah

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ BRIONES PAWNSHOP
AUCTION SALE
June 4, 2001
All unredeemed articles
up to January 2-31, 2001
In the following branches:
354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
Pinatubo St. Mand 10AM
Producers Mkt Mand 11AM
109 Dela Rosa St Mkt 1PM
108 Legaspi St Mkti 2PM
V. ZAMORA Lic. Auctioneer

NUESTRA-DAMUS-NAV PAWNSHOP MAKATI CITY Auction Sale on June 7, 2001 all unredeemed pledges during the month of January 1-31, 2001, Nuestra Br. II Pio-9:30am; Nuestra Br. I-10:30am; Nuestra Br. VI-11:30am; Damus Br. I Pasong Tamo-12:30pm; Nuestra Main-JP-1:30pm; NAV Pawnshop-2:00pm; Nuestra Br. IX Zapote-3:00pm. *Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioneer.*

NUESTRA-DIAJADE PAWNSHOP LAS PINAS METRO MANILA Will have its Auction Sale on June 8, 2001. All unredeemed pledges during the month of January 1-31, 2001. Diajade Main-9:30am; Nuestra Sucat 8:30am, Diajade Br. II-10:30am; Nuestra Br. III-11:30am; Diajade Br. I-1:00pm; Nuestra Almanza-2:00pm. *Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioneer.*

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

I need Medicines Hospital Supplies & Equipt Any Quantity 4199202 Kristine

IDLE Funds? 09179177130 •8082702@20%ROI: 3 months

Resto Greenhills
Call/Text 0917-816 1522

RTW Cash/Consign 373-8821

TShirt Sale 4383147

Work From Home 8937903

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Jose Castillo of Ususan, Taguig, MM has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 68; Page No. 15; Book No. XXXVII; Series of 2000 of Notary Public Primitivo C. Cruz PDI May 25, June 1 & 8, 2001 1001

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CELSO C. OBEN located at 191 Blumentritt San Juan Metro Manila has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc#115 Page#23 Book#6 Series of 2001 by Notary Public Eduardo C. Tagle of San Juan Metro Manila (PDI-May 11,18&25, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice To Public that BOI Certificates Registration No. 80-1156 Under Lamparts Ind. Corp. was Lost.(PDI-May 25, 2001)

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TENDER

In the instructions of our clients

A HUGE QUANTITY OF GRANULATED TABLET AND LAUDRY SOAP; RE-CYCLABLE PACKAGING MATERIALS; SCRAP METALS Incl.: FORKLIFTS and RACKING, STEEL/PVC/CARDBOARD DRUMS, ETC.
In Several Large Lots

Granulated Tablet Soap; Granulated Laundry Soap; Re-Cyclable Packaging Materials
LOCATED: #10 & 11 Guzent Warehouse, Ion St., LISP 1, Pulo, Cabuyao, Laguna

Granulated Laundry Soap
LOCATED: 2000 Pasong Tamo cnr. Malugay St., Makati City

NOTE: The above materials will be sold on a per kilo basis to direct recyclers or re-users. Bidders will be required to complete a qualification form

Scrap Metals Incl. Racking, Forklifts, etc.; Wooden Pallets; Steel / PVC / Cardboard Drums
LOCATED: #10 & 11 Guzent Warehouse, Ion St., LISP 1, Pulo, Cabuyao, Laguna

Scrap Furniture; Misc. Scrap; Wooden Pallets; Steel / PVC / Cardboard Drums; Stainless Steel Storage Tanks; SULLAIR Vacuum Compressor, etc.
LOCATED: 2000 Pasong Tamo cnr. Malugay St., Makati City

On View: Friday 25th May 2001 9:00am - 5:00pm and Saturday 26th 9:00am - 12:00noon
Deadline for Submission: All bids must be received at the Auctioneers office before 5:00pm Saturday 26th May 2001

HENRY BUTCHER
Industrial Auctioneers & Valuers

HENRY BUTCHER & CO. (PHILS.), INC.
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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue Quezon City 1100, Philippines Telephone 925-2401

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bid for one (1) unit. Gas Sterilizer, non-toxic.

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding. List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of intent
2. Article of incorporation and by-laws
3. Business License
4. Financial Statement (last 2 years)
5. ITR for the last 2 years
6. Location map of office
7. DOH Accreditation
8. List of clients and contact person
9. Product list with certificate of exclusive distributorship and brochure
10. Certificate of trainings for service engineers
11. Notarized certificate of authority to sign and represent the company
12. Certificate of major parts availability

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before June 18, 2001 at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI -- May 25, 26, 27, June 1, 2 & 3, 2001)

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given of the proposed permanent transfer of the quota of ST. GABRIEL CORPORATION, to the following firms:

Name	Category	Quantity (dz)
Walter Garments Corp.	347/8	3490
Standard Milestone Corp	347/8	9000

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Crying game

Q. Why does my nose run when I cry?

A. A tube called the naso-lachrymal duct runs from a small hole in the inner corner of your eye to the nose. When you cry, an excess of water builds up in the eye and this tube serves as a drainage system to the nose. Some of the tears also run out of the eyes because the naso-lachrymal duct is too small to handle a large volume of tears.

For the Record. Laughter may not exactly be the best medicine for whatever ails you, but doctors will agree it is a good remedy. When you laugh, electrical impulses are triggered by nerves in your brain, which set off chemical reactions there and in other parts of your body. Your endocrine (glandular) system orders your brain to release its natural tranquilizers and painkillers, which ease anxiety and relieve pain. Others substances released in the wake of laughter aid digestion, while others make the arteries.

First of all. The first ship to send out an SOS distress signal was the British luxury liner *Titanic*, thought to be unsinkable. A few days out of Southampton, England, on its maiden voyage to New York 1912, it run into an iceberg in the North Atlantic and sank south of Newfoundland. About 1,500 of the 2,200 passengers and crew on board drowned. A nearby ship, the *Carpathia*, responding to the distress call, rescued the survivors -- mostly women and children -- and rushed them to New York. The *Titanic* had stocked too few lifeboats to make room for squash courts and Turkish baths.

Classified Odd. John Edward Blue, 38, of Dorchester, Massachusetts, was being baptized in a local lake on August 13, 1984, when he and the minister performing the baptism slipped and fell backward into deep water. The minister survived, but Blue drowned.

WORD WATCH

Cymophobia (sigh moh foh bi uh): fear of sea waves.

PDI -- May 25, 2001

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting sealed Sale Through Market Determined Pricing (SMDP) at Food Development Center, FTI Compound, Taguig, Metro Manila among all interested buyers for the sale of local and imported refined sugar, particulars as follows:

WITHDRAWAL PERIOD : VOLUME (in Lkg.)
JUNE : 250,000 Lkg.
JULY : 500,000 Lkg.
AUGUST : 500,000 Lkg.
SEPTEMBER : 250,000 Lkg.

COLOR (ICUMSA Units) max : 45 (Imported) 100 (Local)
INDICATIVE PRICE : P1,150.00 per Lkg.
BID BOND : 5% of the total price offer
PERFORMANCE BOND : 10% of the bid price in the form cash, manager's/cashier's check or thru irrevocable Letter of Credit

PRE-AUCTION DATES/TIME : 28 May 2001 (June 4, 2001 in case of failre or for any balance of the first auction) 2:00 PM

AUCTION DATES : 30 May 2001 (6 June 2001 in case of failure or for any balance of the first auction) 2:00 PM

Bid documents will be available on 28 May 2001 after the Pre-SMDP conference and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. Interested bidders may secure terms and conditions starting May 25, 2001 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Directorate for Marketing Operations (Operations and Coordinations Division), 5th Floor, Matimyas Building, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City or may contact at telephone no. 712-1572.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all, waive any informality thereof and accept only such bids as are advantageous to the agency.

(Sgd.) VICENTE V. RACHO
Chairman, PBAC and Assistant Administrator

(PDI--May 24, 25 & 26, 2001)

TRADE AND INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
(formerly PHILGUARANTEE)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

THE TRADE AND INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (TIDCORP) INVITES INTERESTED PARTIES/ CONTRACTORS WITH AT LEAST GENERAL B CATEGORY TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID FOR THE INTERIOR CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE (Electrical, Architectural, Mechanical and Civil Works).

Pre-qualification requirements may be obtained from the General Services/Property and Supply Management Division, which requirements shall be submitted not later than 31 May 2001, together with a Letter of Intent. For further details, please call telephone No. 896-4515 locals 113/108 and 109.

Pre-bidding conference of short-listed bidders shall be on 05 June 2001.

Deadline for the submission of bids/opening of bids shall be 2:00 p.m. of 14 June 2001.

TIDCORP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein or to accept such bid(s) as may be most advantageous to it. TIDCORP assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids.

(SGD.) Atty. MA. ROSARIO MANALANG-DEMIGILLO
Senior Vice President and Chairperson
Special Pre-qualification, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--May 25, 26 & 27, 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDER

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting sealed tenders on **31 May 2001** at 1:00 PM at the **FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILDING FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila,** among NFA accredited government corporations/ institutions and Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) accredited international traders/suppliers for the supply of minimum 10,000 MT up to maximum of 54,087 MT raw cane or white cane refined sugar (fines) of any specific origin representing the Philippines' minimum access volume (MAV) allocation for the year 2001 under the following terms:

1. SPECIFICATIONS
   A. **Raw Cane Sugar (VHP)** - Of fair average quality of the current crop in bulk with **Very High Polarization (VHP)** minimum of 98.50 degrees, maximum of 99.40 degrees at the time of shipment and inspection at the loadport;
   B. **White Cane Refined Sugar (Fines)** - Minimum polarization of 99.80 degrees, maximum color 45 ICUMSA units and maximum moisture content of 0.06%;
2. ARRIVAL PERIOD

VARIETY	NOT LATER THAN JULY	 AUGUST
A. Raw Cane Sugar	10,000 MT min. 54,087 MT max	10,000 MT min. 54,087 MT max.
B. White Cane Refined	10,000 MT min. 54,087 MT max.	10,000 MT min. 54,087 MT max.

3. PRICE OFFER

Interested offerors are required to submit price offers for both raw and white cane refined sugar as per arrival schedule from any specific origin and to be quoted in US$/MT, CFR, FO, based on the following modes of payment:

1. **Irrevocable at sight Letter of Credit**
2. **Irrevocable usance Letter of Credit, 180 days after B/L date**

SRA accredited international traders/suppliers are required to submit a bid bond equivalent 10% of the total offered price in the form of Cashier's check; Manager's check, demand draft in USD issued/drawn from a reputable Metro Manila bank or an irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit issued by a reputable bank domiciled in the Philippines valid for 120 days from date of bidding. On the other hand, NFA accredited government corporations/institutions are exempted from the posting of bid bond.

Submission of the offer together with the bid bond will be between 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM on the tender date.

Opening of offers will start exactly at 1:00 PM. Only those approved and invited by the Bidding Committee for the supply of raw/refined sugar based on the list of NFA accredited government corporations and international traders/ suppliers accredited by the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) are invited to submit sealed tenders.

The pre-bidding conference will be held on **28 May 2001** at 10:00 AM at the FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILDING FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting 24 May 2001 (8:00 A.M. - 5:00 PM) from the Directorate for Marketing Operations, Foreign Operations Division, 5th Floor, NFA, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City with telephone numbers 743-8696; 712-1928; 712-1572; 712-1564 and 711-7433.

Bidding documents will be available on **28 May 2001** right after the pre-bidding conference to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00.

In case of failure a pre-rebidding/rebidding will be conducted on **04 June 2001** and **07 June 2001**, at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, respectively, at the **FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILDING FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila**

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) VICENTE V. RACHO
Chairman, PBAC and Assistant Administrator

(PDI--May 24, 25 & 26, 2001)

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SAMPLE ADS

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love,
Issa

size: 1 col x 4 cm
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Happy Fathers' Day Tatay Thank you for everything. I love you. Rose

size: 3 lines
cost: P165 vat inclusive

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On 11 May 2001, our beloved

Joy

went home to be in God's eternal bosom,
there to live in peace and perfection.

Her going home was a moment of grief for us,
but it was easy to bear that grief for there
were loved ones, friends, and colleagues
who offered their time to assure us of
the presence and love of God in our life.

To you we offer our deepest gratitude,
and our prayer for God's blessing on your life.

NEPTALI "Boyet" GONZALES II

and

KRISTINE OLIVIA FRANCISCO GONZALES

Encarnacion "Carnay" L. Domingo

(1921 - 2001)

peacefully joined her Creator on May 23, 2001

Her loving husband **Marianing**; children **Annie** and **Eugene Ramos**, **Greg** and **Weng**, **Andrew** and **Mitos**, **Gina** and **Tom Weaver**; grandchildren **Ryan**, **Rica**, **Cristine**, **Sophie**, **Migi**, **Bobby**, **Christina**, **Kevin**, **Michael**, **Dominique** and **Timothy**, request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness in Heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Sta. Rita Parish Church, Philamlife Homes, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 27, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 2:00 PM Mass at the Sta. Rita Parish Church.

JOSE NG TAN

of Lucena City

Peacefully joined our Maker on May 23, 2001 at the age of 82.

His wife **Pura**; children **Eugene** and **Helen**, **Gilda** and **Wolly**, **Philip** and **Luna**, **Fanda** and **Nelson**, **Vic** and **Ditas**, **Bernadette** and **Gerhard**, **Pin** and **Danny**, and **Paul**; grandchildren **Aris**, **Katrina**, **Krisha**, **Kristin**, **Patrick**, **Jacky**, **Joseph**, **John**, **Jean**, **JM**, **Michelle**, **Denise**, **Lorenz**, **Francis**, **Melissa**, **Grace**, **Chris**, **Theresa**; and other relatives request the dear readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.
His body lies in state at Arlington East The Garden Chapels,
C. Raymundo Avenue corner Mercedes Avenue, Pasig City.
His remains will be cremated at the Loyola Memorial Park Crematorium, Marikina on Sunday, May 27, 2001 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Our Lady of The Abandoned Church in Marikina City.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

It Is God's Will

Don't grieve for me, for now I must rest.
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard His call.
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
I found that peace at close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too shall miss.
Be not burdened with time of sorrow;
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I've savored much;
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and share with me;
God wanted me now;
He set me free.

In Loving Memory of

1Lt. Rizza L. Simon, PAF

Born
06 February 1973
Rizal, Alicia, Isabela, Philippines

Died
18 May 2001
while on rescue mission in
Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines

Viewing/Memorial
22-23 May 2001
Rizal, Alicia, Isabela, Philippines

24-26 May 2001
Nacional Memorial Homes
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City,
Philippines

Interment
26 May 2001 at 0800 hrs.
Libingan Ng Mga Bayani,
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City,
Philippines

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

FERNANDO LOPEZ TALABIS

October 29, 1939 - May 22, 2001

His family, **Gigi Guison**, **John**, **Ella**, **Paul**, **Angel**, **Franklin**, **Bing Palad**, **Jon**, **Elix**, and **Carl**; brothers and sisters **Rey** (†) and **Sally**, **Letty Alonzo**, **Adolfo** and **Noemi**, **Alberto** (†) and **Irma**, **Tess** and **Pete**, **Rudy** (†) and **Marites**, **Millette** and **Mel Rosales** enjoin the reader to pray for his glorious homecoming with the Lord.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Funeral Homes, Quezon City.

Cremation follows after 10:00 AM Mass on Sunday, May 27, 2001.

MARCELLANA ARCALAS DE ASIS

of Rancho, Santa, Ilocos Sur and Makati City

May 28, 1927 - May 23, 2001

Peacefully joined her Creator on May 23, 2001 at the age of 73.

Her bereaved husband Tony; children Manny and Marlyn, Eleanor, Erlinda Gene and Nimfa, Elmy (†), Boodie and Elys, Erwin and Tes, Eickle and Joji, Eilah, brothers, sisters, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel D, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. Interment will follow at the Manila South Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Funeral Mass at Our Lady of La Paz Parish Church on Saturday, May 26, 2001.

VIOLETA B. MONZON

Peacefully joined of our Lord on May 22, 2001
at the age of 69.

Her loving children Deo and Jo, Chito and Lowella, and Pearle and Reden together with grandchildren Joyce, Clarissa, Sam, Toby and Tommy request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul
Her remains lie in state at Floresco Funeral Home,
Gen. Luna Street, Malabon, Metro Manila.
Holy Mass will be offered on Saturday, May 26, 2001 at 9:30 AM.
Cremation will follow at Eternal Garden Crematorium at 1:00 PM.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones the following establishments can help you.

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Apple to phase out old style monitors

SAN JOSE, California—Apple Computer Inc. is ready to make bulky cathode ray tube displays things of the past.

"We will be the first with all LCD displays in the industry," chief executive Steve Jobs said in opening Apple's weeklong conference for thousands of software developers.

Apple is already selling a pair of flat-panel liquid crystal displays, a 15-inch (38-centimeter) and a 22-in. (56-cm.), and will introduce a new 17-in. (43-cm.) display early next month.

LCD monitors offer higher resolution and take up far less space than traditional PC displays.

The decision doesn't involve Apple's line of popular iMac computers, the colorful desktops that combine a computer and monitor all-in-one.

Those models, which feature a 15-in. (38-cm.) screen, will remain the only vestige of CRTs, Apple officials said.

Citing heavy feedback from consumers, Jobs also said the company now is shipping all Mac computers with its latest OS X operating system, two months ahead of what the company had planned.

Previously, users had to buy the $129 software separately. A version of OS X for servers also was released Monday.

The new OS X is taking center stage at the developers conference in San Jose. It is the Cupertino-based computer maker's first major platform overhaul since it introduced the Macintosh in 1984.

After a bruising first quarter in which Apple reported its first loss in three years, Apple returned to profitability in the second quarter, helped by a new line of products and the March 24 release of OS X.

The company also is hoping to gain market share—it now claims less than 5 percent of the United States' PC market—by opening up retail stores in high-traffic shopping areas. The company opened its first two stores of 25 planned over the weekend in Virginia and California.

Jobs said the store openings drew 7,700 visitors, some of whom stood in line for three hours to get in. The stores sold a combined total of $559,000 of merchandise, he said.

The momentum of Apple's new products and retail stores has generated more enthusiasm among Apple developers.

"Without developers seeing that Apple is a viable platform, they're not going to develop applications for it, and we're seeing the opposite of that," said Frank Falco, chief executive of Recall Design, an Australian company that creates online applications. *AP*

The future is in 'u-commerce'

THE WORLD today is energized by recent developments of electronic commerce, especially as mobile commerce or "mCommerce" begins to generate big bucks.

But it's more than "e" and more than "m." Yes, we're exchanging information and making transactions through our personal computers, our cell phones, and our personal digital assistants (PDAs). But what about "tCommerce"—commerce through our televisions? Or "aCommerce," transacting through integrated features in our automobiles? If refrigerators soon come with sensors that alert the online grocer that it's time to deliver more milk, will we call it "rCommerce?" If my dog's collar alerts me to the fact he's got fleas, is it "dCommerce?"

e + m + t + a + ?.. = u

Something bigger is going on here? Something not just driven by new devices or cool websites, but by unlimited possibilities, unique business propositions, and unparalleled effects on the way we work and live.

These possibilities can be grouped under what we're calling "uCommerce":

Untethered—not constrained by hard wires of traditional computing and telephony.

Ubiquitous—taking place anywhere a person wants.

Unbounded—no longer limited to the traditional definition of commerce.

The marketplace today feels breathless—like a series of 100-meter sprints. We think everyone's in for a longer run. So take a breath, settle into a pace, and come with us as we look at what you may be hearing "on the street" these days about the new world of eCommerce, and then give you the real "inside scoop."

Not just old wine

Word on the street: You've got the content already, it's on your website.

Just make it available to people through their cell phones and PDAs.

The inside scoop: Don't be constrained by old mental models. People will be doing new and different things in the world of uCommerce. When there's new media, there will be new content and experiences created specifically for them. Mobile devices and net appliances will be no different. We will not browse the Web on our phones the way we do on our desks anymore than we will read novels on the Web the way we read paperbacks on the beach. Instead uCommerce winners will provide new experiences and an increasing amount of content and services that capitalize on the fact that these devices are mobile, or embedded into a remote environment.

If these walls could talk

Word on the street: Mobile commerce primarily means wireless access to products and services.

The inside scoop: Yes, consumer access to information and transactions over mobile devices. But there's more: many of the business-to-business opportunities will come from thinking different and thinking bigger: consider, for example, what mobile means for smart appliances. Stationary appliances can communicate, and remote sensors can collect information and track physical objects. The low cost of wireless technology along with the ease of use (no wiring needed) means that you can now add communications capabilities to physical objects (e.g., photocopy machines can call for their own repairs).

Also, sensors of various types—pressure, video, audio, temperature, assorted health sensors, to name a few—can be deployed and used to collect data wirelessly.

New services such as remote health care, remote maintenance, security and countless others will be developed around these new remote sensing capabilities. The ability to amass data about how products are performing in real time will provide new insight into products and services.

It's an AND world, after all

Word on the street: eCommerce and mCommerce blow everything else clean out of the water. The inside scoop: Think "and" not "or." uCommerce is not a replacement for eCommerce, mCommerce, or bricks and mortar. A more likely scenario is a fusion of all three, with people moving seamlessly from one to the other depending on their location and the nature of the need. uCommerce is not a replacement for anything your company is doing today, but an extension of it. Every future and legacy application will need to consider the implications of untethered, ubiquitous, unbounded commerce.

Tell me, don't sell me!

Word on the street: Mobile commerce means buying, buying, buying! Right now!

The inside scoop: Whoa, Nelly. Don't get ahead of yourself. Researchers at the Accenture Institute for Strategic Change recently found from surveys of real mobile users that what they most want from the wireless Web right now are things like news, weather, sports, reading email, and location services like electronic maps. They want to be told things; they want information; they want to exchange animated cartoons with their friends. No one in our survey even mentioned using the wireless Web to buy products. Yes, that will change. But as you move forward, you want to remember that right now, uCommerce means mobile information access; in the future it will mean that plus mobile financial transactions. The commerce part of mobile commerce is not here yet, for the most part. Mobile purchasing has got to become easier.

Let fingers do the walking

Word on the street: Who needs a personal computer if I can surf the Web from my cell phone or PDA?

The inside scoop: Surf? Cell phone? Back to our point that mobile purchasing has to get easier. Our researchers recently measured the user inputs required to make an online purchase with a mobile phone compared to a desktop computer. The mobile phone required, on average, two-and-a-half times more inputs than the computer—with most of the extra work coming at the critical "Buy" phase, when a consumer is most likely to abandon a purchase.

For mobile phone and PDA users to start buying, the devices—and the information systems behind them—have to get a lot smarter.

uCommerce is all about YOU.

Word on the street: Mobile means access to more stuff, and we want it all!

The inside scoop: Hardly anyone with a mobile device has the stamina to sift through gigabytes of "stuff." Want to get an edge in uCommerce? Provide personalized information: filter out the junk and give people what they want, fast. The future belongs to the companies and the devices that receive and present dynamic content, tailored to who you are, where you are, when you are.

Control the micropayments

Word on the street: The way to make more money is to provide your products and services to mobile users.

The inside scoop: While some companies are figuring out how to do traditional commercial transactions in a mobile world, someone else is quietly going to control the real way money gets made in the uCommerce world: micropayments. A few cents for this, a few cents for that, it adds up. In the world of uCommerce—where using our mobile devices is entirely natural, we will access information and make a variety of transactions that aren't major, or even minor, purchases. We'll download an article for 10 cents; purchase a soda for 75 cents. Play a game for a quarter. The real question is, who will do the billing? Telephone companies? Banks? Or someone who hasn't been thought of yet?

Cracks in rose-colored glasses

Word on the street: Mobile devices with global positioning system (GPS) capabilities that can let everyone know where I am in the world within two meters! The inside scoop: Use your mobile device right now to log onto a book-selling website, and buy a copy of George Orwell's 1984. Maybe there are some parts of the world where people don't mind having everyone—family, friends, creditors—know exactly where they are all the time. But millions of people just are not going to go along with this. So it's best for everyone to proceed with eyes open.

Oh, yes, there are other obstacles, too: an absence of technology standards in the United States and security concerns. An absence of the back office systems to turn mobile into reality. However, here's the key message: these obstacles will slow the arrival of uCommerce and make its rate of adoption uneven around the world. But they won't stop it .

Don't wait

You've got my attention. Now what?

Don't wait. There are things that all businesses need to be doing now if they are to be major players in the uCommerce world. It's true that the "killer app" (like e-mail was for the Internet) hasn't yet arrived. But it will. In the meantime, companies should:

Create advanced commerce engines on computers and transfer "easy" capabilities (menu-based) to the wireless Web.

Figure out what your customers really want, right now. Trying to sell year 2002 services to year 2001 customers won't impress anyone. Least of all, Wall Street.

Design wireless sites to deliver simple content and easy interaction.

Choose goals that fit the medium: extending customer service and capturing some extra attention—not selling ad space or building the brand.

Before 13-0, there was 10-0

(From page B7)

Code?

This question, among others, was addressed by the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) in Case No. 5813 involving American Express International Inc.-Philippine branch (Amex-Phil). In the said case, Amex-Phil, as a servicing unit of Amex-Hong Kong branch [Amex-HK], was engaged primarily to facilitate the collections of the latter's receivables from card members located in the Philippines and payment to service establishments in the Philippines. For its services, Amex-Phil is paid in acceptable foreign currency remitted inwardly to the Philippines and accounted for in accordance with BSP rules. Amex-Phil claimed that its services to Amex-HK is subject to zero VAT under Sec. 108 (B) (2) [formerly Sec. 102 (B) (2)] of the Tax Code.

The BIR did not, however, agree with Amex-Phil's position. The BIR argued that since Amex-Phil's services were not of the same class or of the same nature as "project studies, information services, engineering and architectural designs," these would not qualify for zero-rated VAT under Sec. 4.102-2 (b) (2) of RR 7-95, as amended. These services, according to the BIR, should be subject to 10-percent VAT.

In the end, the CTA upheld Amex-Phil's position and ruled that the latter's services are subject to zero VAT. The CTA said that Sec. 108 (B) (2) of the Tax Code and Sec. 4.102-2 (b) (2) are too clear to admit of the interpretation advanced by the BIR. Sec.108 (B) (2) merely provides that services other those enumerated in the preceding paragraph shall be subject to zero VAT for so long as the consideration is paid for in acceptable foreign currency and accounted for in accordance with the rules and regulations of the BSP. The CTA concluded that since Amex-Phil's services to Amex-HK are paid in the manner provided under Sec. 108 (B) (2), these services shall be subject to no VAT.

With this decision of the CTA, the earlier VAT Ruling 040-98, to the extent that the latter limits the application of Sec. 108 (B) (2), is considered abandoned. Thus, all services rendered by a VAT taxpayer to its non-resident foreign client are now subject to zero VAT provided the same is paid in acceptable foreign currency inwardly remitted and accounted for in accordance with BSP rules.

However, like most losing candidates in an election are wont to do, the BIR has questioned the CTA's decision. To date, the case is still pending appeal before the Court of Appeals (CA). Until the CA decides on the issue, however, VAT taxpayers are still left guessing as to what rate to apply. So, is it 10? Or, 0?

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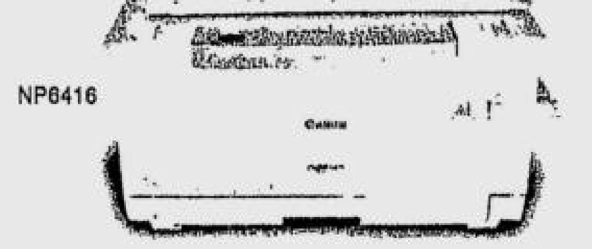

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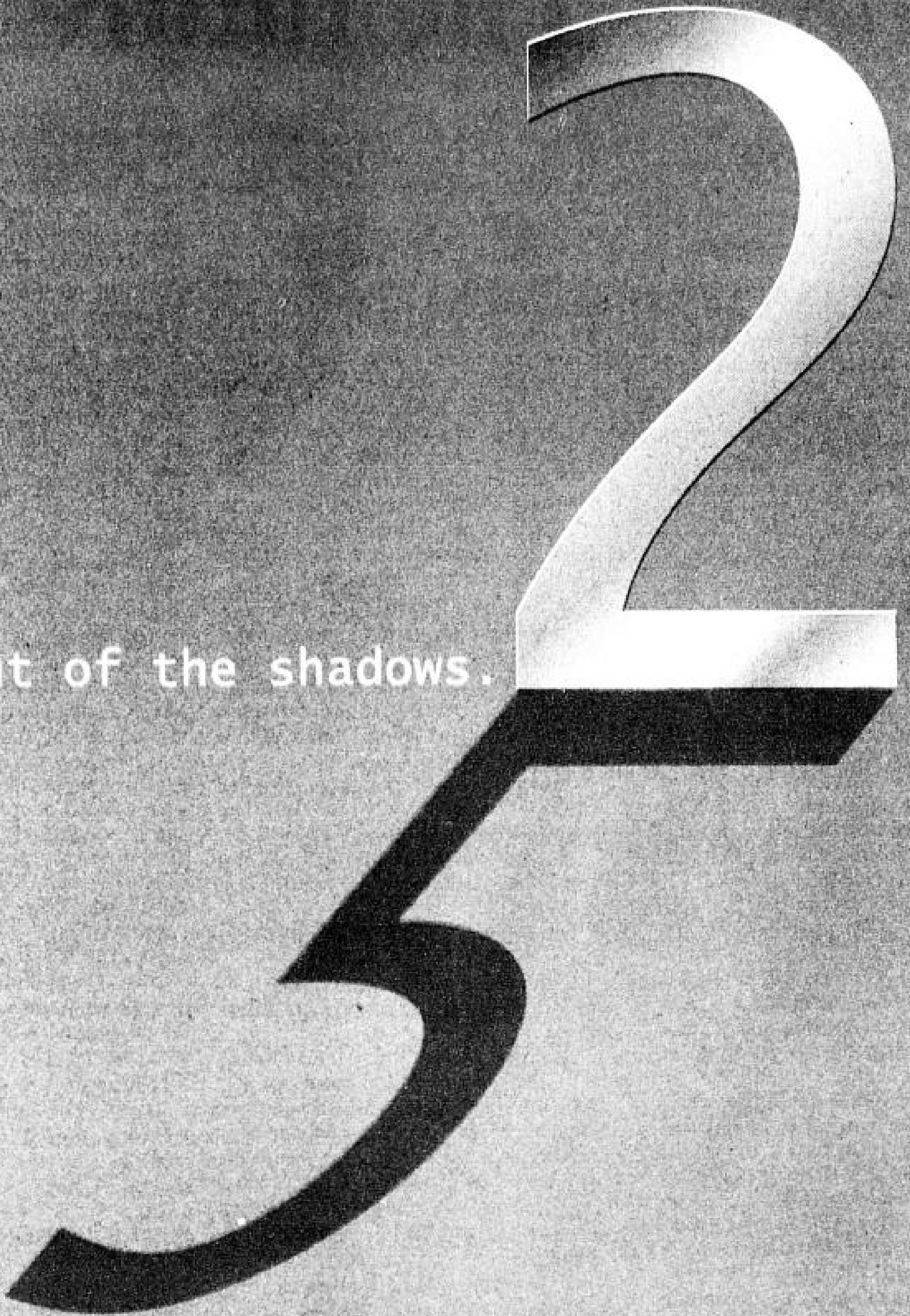

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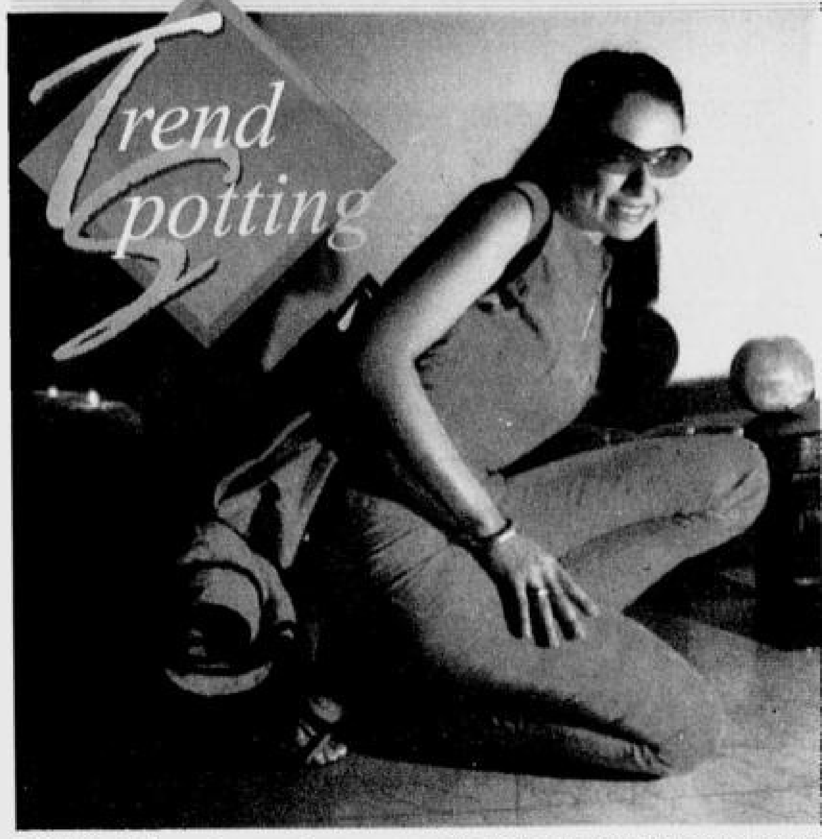

RUFFA Gutierrez is wearing an orange jacket and cigarette pants with a canvas beach bag by Narciso Rodriguez.

Jet-setting becomes her

By Leah Salterio
Photos by Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

JUST enumerating her travel itinerary is dizzying enough. Yet, actress-beauty queen Ruffa Gutierrez does not seem to get exhausted moving from one country to another, whether it's for work, love or family.

Now based in the United States where she owns a posh residence in Beverly Hills, Ruffa shuttles between Los Angeles and Manila.

In L.A., she is a contract talent of Century Productions, which brings her to all parts of the globe.

JET/ p.C4

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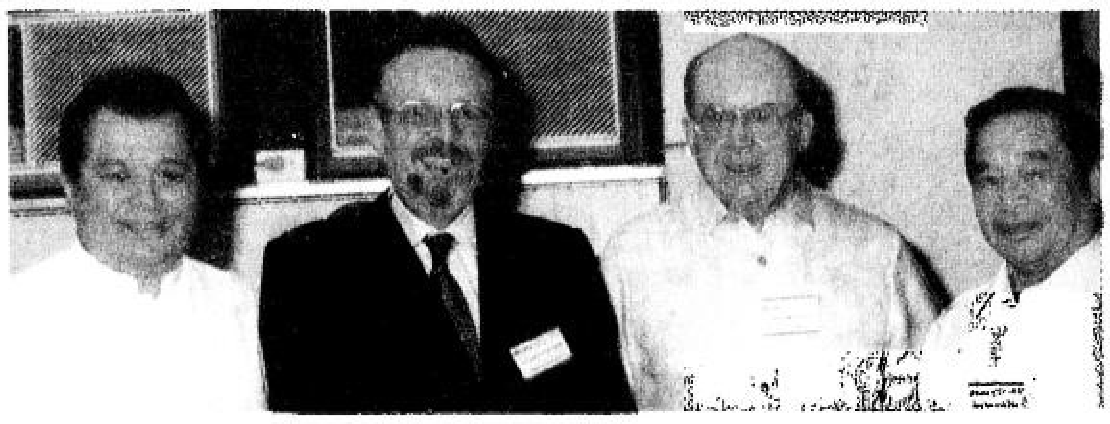
LOEWE'S Caroline Roberts, Philippe Robbe and Gigi Mabanta



BOB Zozobrado, Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesante, Don Marshall and Ebelio Villena Jr.

GINA Campos, Bong Barretto and Mary Ann Bringas

Spanish fashion house revs up and Italian airline takes off

By Donnie C. Ramirez

LOEWE'S spring/summer collection was recently previewed for Manila's fashion cognoscenti at the Makati Shangri-La. Top executives of Loewe Asia-Pacific flew in from Hong Kong, led by Asia-Pacific GM **Philippe Robbe**, marketing and communications manager **Caroline Roberts** and PR specialist **Karen Cheng**. Loewe Phils. country manager **Gigi Mabanta** played able host to the event.

Loewe's collection is sheer luxurious elegance in fashionable fabrics and colors that suit today's sophisticated women. With top designer **Narciso Rodriguez** behind the chic Spanish fashion house, the collection is tailor-made for ladies of style who go for refined and classic glamour that's neither extravagant nor outlandish.

The collection obviously flatters the female form, with sensual contours that accentuate the body. There are jackets with rounded edges and skirts with low and slightly gathered waists falling to the knee; light-colored blouses coordinated with black trousers in fitted, anatomical silhouettes, and daring bustiers over tight pants.

The tops line is the *passe partout* of the collection. Luscious textures abound in diverse choices as silk (asymmetric or stripped), jersey from exclusive suede; and netted and pleated leather. A winning combination are the tops with maxi leather belts worn over cigarette trousers.

Loewe's new line is a provocative combination of draping and gatherings The pleated tunics, obviously of Hellenic inspiration, are tied to the waist with suede belts, making for easy movement and capturing the free spirit of today's cosmopolitan women. For the more adventurous, there are short shorts, tight pants and skirts that barely skim the knee. Black and white, favored by Rodriguez, dominate the collection, but these are highlighted by graphic contrasts and wittily interrupted with bright reds and touches of hazelnut.

Given a subtle hint of sensuality are the portfolio skirts draped to the side, and hareback dresses hand-embroidered with black and white crystal beads that create a shiny-opaque effect. From daytime affairs to elegant evening functions, Loewe's spring/summer collection will definitely make heads turn.

CONNIE Guanzon-Garcia stands beside the award-winning Philippine table setting.

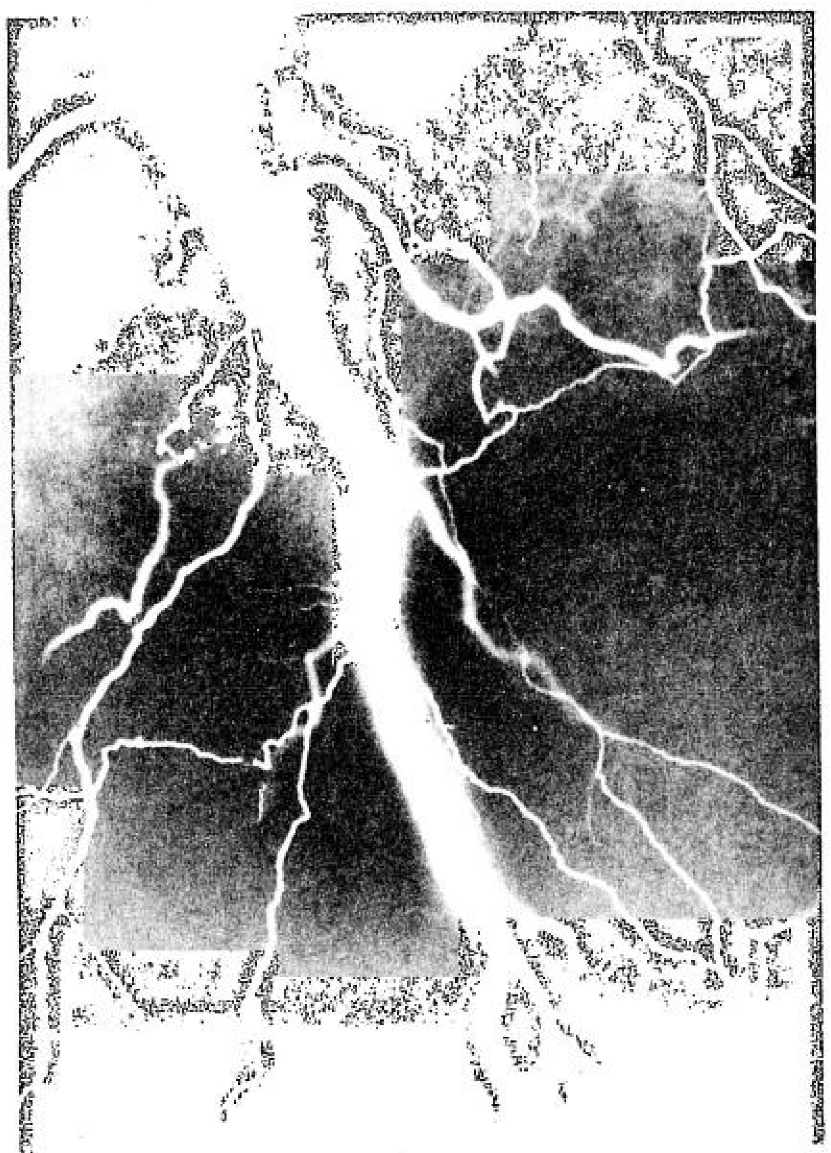
The Loewe boutique is located at the G/F 6750 Ayala Avenue in Makati.

New office for Alitalia

ITALY'S flag carrier Alitalia recently inaugurated its new sales office with newly designated Italian Ambassador **Umberto Colesanti** leading the VIPs composed mostly of travel agents, corporate accounts and representatives from Manila's vibrant Italian community. Flying in from Hong Kong was the airline's regional manager **Vincenzo Cappelluto**. Designed with comfortable and customer-friendly interiors, the new office is at the G/F Erechem Building, Legaspi Village, Makati.

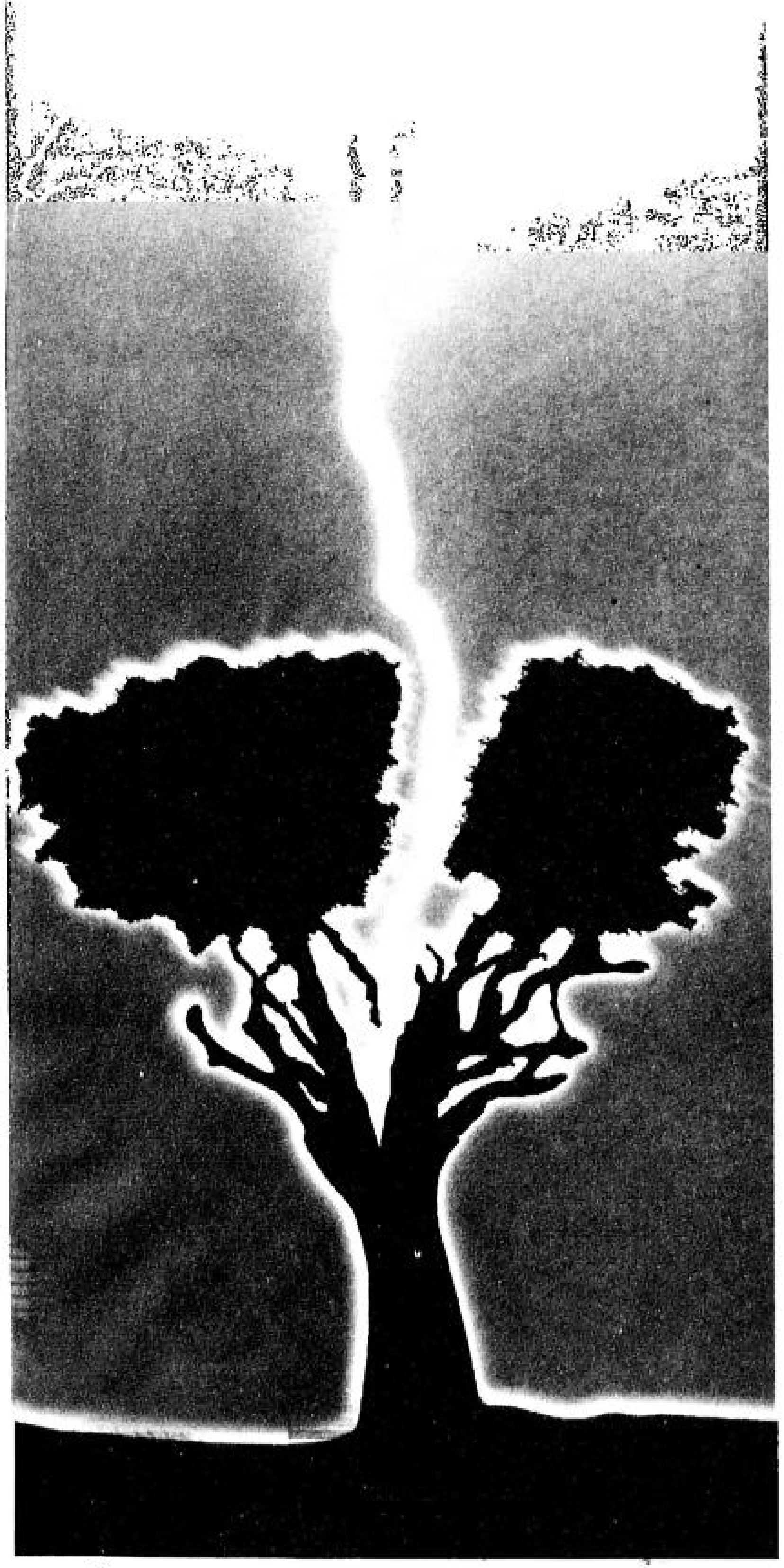
Seen at the inaugural were Guam-based **Don Marshall** (with delightful wife Sally) who is the general sales agent (GSA) of Northwest Airlines for the Philippines and Micronesia, the Ambassador's

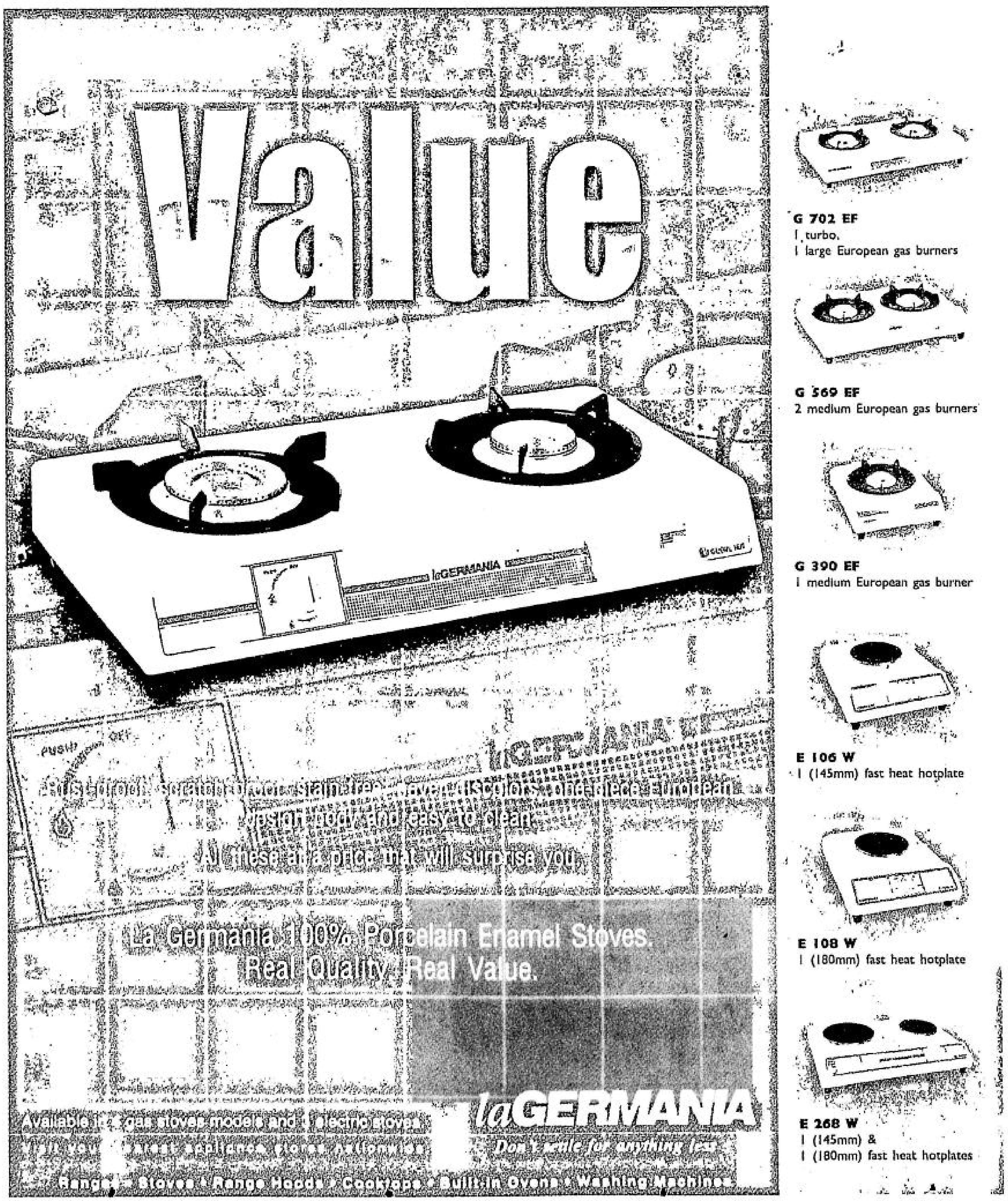
SPANISH/ p.C3



Up to 73% off on handsets...50% off on registration fees... 49% off on SIM pack prices!

The numbers will strike you!





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E 106 W
1 (145mm) fast heat hotplate

E 108 W
1 (180mm) fast heat hotplate

E 268 W
1 (145mm) &
1 (180mm) fast heat hotplates

Spanish fashion

(From page C2)

lady Mme. **Clara Mara Colesanti**, Northwest ITI vice president **Catalino Bondoc** and GM **Gina Campos**, Alitalia director **Luigi Benedetti**, Phil-Italian Association chair **Chit Montenegro**, Northwest Airlines human resources manager **Jojo Veneracion**, accounting manager **Nilo Rodriguez**, sales manager **Gary Agarwal** and PAL manager for Alliances **Arnel Vibar**. Alitalia-ITI sales manager **Mary Ann Bringas** and her staff had their hands full attending to the guests.

In his brief message, Cappelluto expressed confidence in Alitalia's partnership with ITI as its new GSA, saying that the tie-up will give the airline renewed impetus and better presence in the Philippines. "The initial indications for 2001 are positive as Alitalia is well on its way to surpassing its worldwide budget targets," Capellutto declared.

Having Italy's world-class airlines within easy reach opens up new and exciting travel possibilities for the Filipino globetrotters. After all, who doesn't dream of exploring the glorious city of Rome, or riding the romantic gondolas of Venice, or strolling along the cobbled streets of the Renaissance city of Florence, and most of all, experiencing the spiritual high of a pilgrimage to the Vatican?

With revitalized services, a growing fleet and an extended route network, Alitalia is fast gaining ground in being at par with the world's best airlines. Presently, it flies out of Hong Kong every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday and arrives in Malpensa, Milan, its Italian hub, the following day. Milan to Hong Kong flights are every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. To complement these flights, Alitalia has forged an agreement with Philippine Airlines to carry the passengers between Manila and Hong Kong and back.

Did you know?

DID you know that right into the 18th century, the hands and fingers were used for eating? That matching cutlery and dishes only existed for the last 250 years? That table linen was used exclusively by the nobility until the middle of the 19th century?

The art of table setting is truly a product of hundreds of years of development. During the Hapsburg Era, cooking and dining reached a very high standard in Austria. With set dining tables and smaller arrangements, the history of table setting from medieval feasting to contemporary fast-food dining was recently showcased at an elegant exhibit held at the Schloss Luberegg in Melk, a scenic town in the Lower Austrian Region. The affair was graced by **Princess Anita Von Hohenberg**, the lady of the ancestral Castle of Luberegg, **Count Andreas Graf Von Bardeau**, **Madame Waltraud Steinbock** who publishes the respected diplomatic journal Cercle Diplomatique, the Philippine Ambassador to Austria **Victor Garcia III** and his vivacious wife **Connie Guanzon-Garcia**, and other members of the diplomatic community in Austria.

The Philippine table was the favorite of the VIP guests, as well as the Austrian press who hailed the showcase as the most elegant display because of the color and drama of the setting. The concept was the result of a thorough research instigated by Madame Connie and executed by Vienna-based Filipino interior designer and architect Alberto Jaru.

The centerpiece was the square *narra* table lined with hand-embroidered *jusi* fabric. The placements and accessories were made of mother-of-pearl. Rising majestically at the center of the table was a tall antique *narra* candelabra. The setting was further enhanced by an antique *solihiya* chair with intricate carvings where a mannequin, dressed in a fully embroidered *piña* Maria Clara, stood. The accessories were flown in from Manila by Tesoro's.

Besides the Philippines, the other countries that took part in the successful exhibition were Japan, Korea, Nigeria, China, Indonesia and Burkina Faso.

PRINCESS Anita Von Hohenberg, Alberto Jaru, Connie Guanzon-Garcia

LUIGI Beneditti, Vincenzo Cappelluto and Chit Montenegro

CLAUDIO Piccinin, Tullio Testa

MARTIN Chen and Catalino Bondoc

This week at SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT

Star Recording, Inc. presents Tootsie Guevara MAY 25 • 4pm
Prodigy marketing presents D' GROOVE MAY 25 • 6pm

Star Recording, Inc. presents PORKCHOP MAY 26 • 4pm
Prodigy marketing presents Andrew e. MAY 26 • 6pm

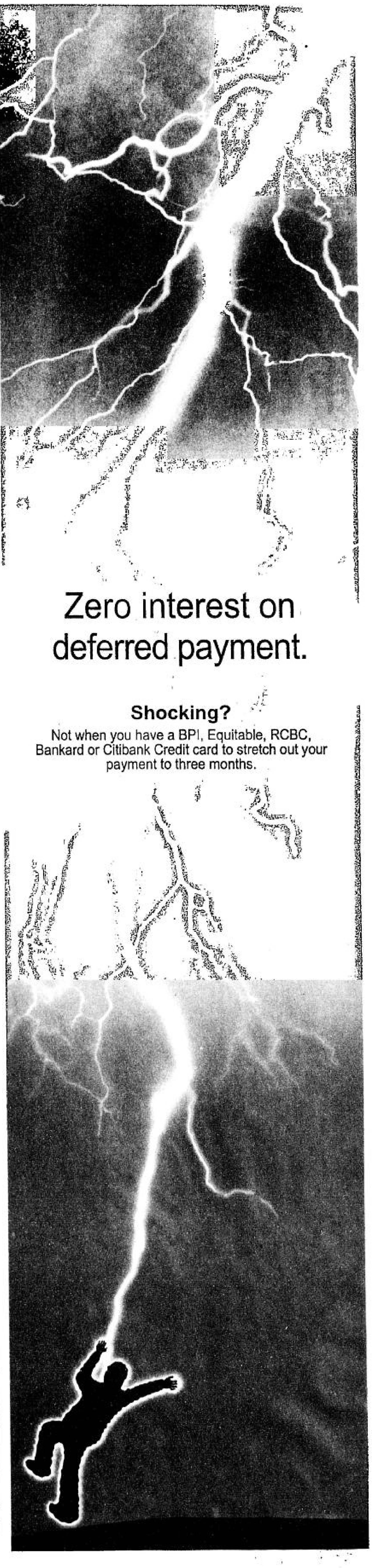
Star Recording, Inc. presents Jimmy bondoc MAY 27 • 4pm

Star Recording, Inc. presents Teenhearts and Lloyd Zaragoza MAY 28 • 4pm

Star Recording, Inc. presents Nikki valdez and FORMULA MAY 29 • 4pm

Star Recording, Inc. presents CARLOS AGASSI MAY 30 • 4pm

Star Recording, Inc. presents Mari MAY 31 • 4pm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Shocking?
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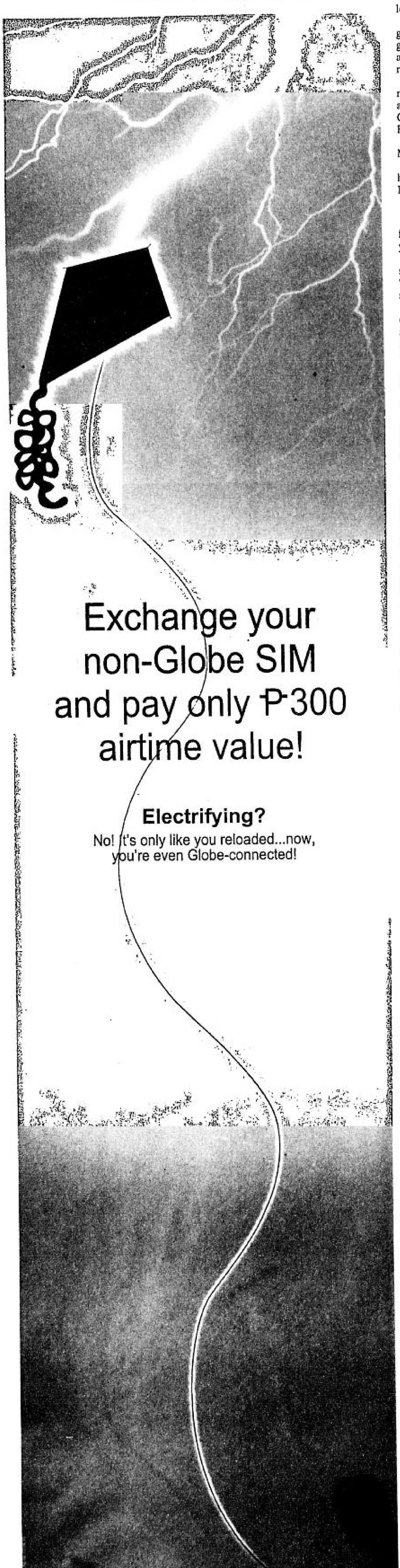
Jet-setting becomes her

Nurturing a career based in Los Angeles, Ruffa Gutierrez finds that life on the fast lane is exhilarating and even chic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Electrifying?

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(From page C1)

Whenever she can take time off from her frenzied schedule, Ruffa hies off to either Istanbul in Turkey, where her billionaire boyfriend Ylmaz Bektas is based, or Manila to visit her family and squeeze in a few show-biz commitments.

"I've gotten used to being in airplanes," Ruffa grants. "I always pack a moisturizer or mineral water with me. My only problem is recovering after a long flight because I always get a jet-lag."

Being a jet-setter at 25 is something that Ruffa loves to do.

"I love to travel," she says. "For me it's a way of growing as a person. Maybe in the past life I was a gypsy who was always searching for something new and exciting places. But at the end of the day, my retreat is still my home."

Last year, Century Productions took Ruffa to every big event worldwide for her hosting jobs. She attended the Cannes Film Festival in France, the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles and the Sundance Film Festival in Utah.

She also went to Amsterdam, London, Florida, Mexico, Hawaii and the Caribbean.

She has cruised aboard the $4-million yacht of her boyfriend to the south of France, St. Tropez, Portofino and Marbella.

Challenge

Traveling alone initially proved to be a challenge for Ruffa, who was used to having an *alalay* everywhere she went in the Philippines.

"Back then, I was comfortable knowing that someone would be picking up after me," she says. "Now that I travel alone, I'm forever losing my shades, cell phones, pagers, even my credit card."

One wintry morning in Park City, Utah, she got a call from her boss, Kenneth Bothello, who said that someone from New York must have stolen her American Express Card and used it to buy electronic equipment worth $25,000.

"Only then did I realize that my credit card was missing," Ruffa relates.

Another time, she forgot her Louis Vuitton filofax at the L.A. airport.

"I lost all the numbers of my friends and other important people I deal with," she ruefully recalls. "But everything has been a learning experience for me to be more responsible."

For every trip, though, Ruffa has yet to learn to travel light.

"I always bring three suitcases with me for my clothes and shoes," she says. "I use cheap luggage for check-in and bring only my Louis Vuitton handcarry on the plane. When they see your cheap luggage, they won't mess with it."

This year, Ruffa expects to be even busier. After a two-week vacation in Manila, she returned to L.A. last weekend and would be in France by now to attend the Cannes Film Festival (again).

It was at the Kat Korner in Cannes where she met Ylmaz last year. She immediately swept the guy, who's the son of a sheik in Turkey, off his feet. He sent flowers to Ruffa's suite the day after. He also offered to drive her around in his Lamborghini.

"But no matter how hectic my schedule is now, it still can't compare to the time I was 15 when I worked for Regal Films," Ruffa says. "I would do five movies in a span of a few months and my schedule was really crazy."

Shopping

Shopping is undoubtedly one of Ruffa's passions. She goes for trendy designer stuff from Prada, Gucci, Frankie Bs and Earl Jeans. For shoes, she prefers the styles by Manolo Blahnik and Gucci. She also shops at Saks Fifth Avenue, Barney's, Fred Segal and Neimann Marcus.

Ruffa enjoys her freedom now that she is living in the US, where she has a thriving and lucrative career. So when her boyfriend popped a marriage proposal, Ruffa had to turn it down.

"I don't think I'm ready to settle down," Ruffa says. "There are greater things in store for me this year. I want to enjoy my life while I'm still single. There are still so many things to accomplish. I still have so many dreams to fulfill.

"I'm not ready for the responsibility of taking care of children. I want to be emotionally, spiritually and financially stable before I take the plunge. I want to be a hundred percent sure of what I'm doing."

At this point in her life, Ruffa can hardly complain. For someone who has been working since 13 and has experienced the rise and ebb of careers, she is thankful she has been continually blessed.

"I am wiser when it comes to my money, she says. "I trust God to always guide me in making the right decisions."

THIS leather halter dress surely sends temperatures rising.

LACE-UP shoes with strips of suede by Loewe

HAND-EMBROIDERED black crystal beaded blouse and portfolio skirt with asymmetric stripes

CUBAN-AMERICAN designer Narciso Rodriguez favors black and white, highlighted by graphic contrasts and touches of red and hazelnut. The beaded blouse goes with a portfolio skirt, draped to the side.

CLOTHES AND SHOES :
NARCISO RODRIGUEZ
FOR LOEWE
HAIR AND MAKEUP
BY JOJO ARJONA
FOR TENG ROMA,
EMPHASIS SALON

MERCEDES BENZ SEDAN
FROM CATS MOTORS INC.

High-tech hair products make waves

SCHWARZKOPF Professional solves your perm and hair color problems with the improved Natural Styling Curl & Care and Bonacure Keep Color Care products.

Schwarzkopf's Natural Styling Curl & Care carries an innovative two-phase technology that combines high performance and reforming with shine and care in just one product.

Phase 1 involves newly combined wave substances that tame the hair from the hairline to the ends with soft power and flexibility, making possible classic waves as well as never-before-seen results. Phase 2 has concentrated care substances that keep hair supple and shiny with curls staying elastic and full of bounce for weeks. The new product also comes in a fresh, subtle mint fragrance.

Also available are the Natural Styling Curl Conserver, Natural Styling Pre Styling, Natural Styling Apres Styling and Natural Styling Root Perm Gel.

Schwarzkopf's Bonacure Keep Color Care line comes in three products—Color Lock Spray, Color Seal Shampoo and Color Seal Conditioner.

Answer to bad hair days

BAD hair days may be determined by your lifestyle. If you love the sea and outdoors, chances are you have sun-damaged hair. If you're one to stay indoors but has naturally oily hair, then it usually is dull and limp. L'Occitane answers these hair problems and more with its Aromachology Hair Care line.

The French body and skin-care company introduces a complete line of hair products that address specific hair problems using pure play concentrates that rebalance and relax hair.

Those with normal and fine hair will enjoy using the Artemsia Shampoo enriched with cinchona and Artemsia oil that gives fine hair extra strength and body and luster and shine. This is best used with the Artemsia Conditioner which leaves hair tangle-free.

The Chamomile Shampoo with sweet almond and blue chamomile prevents progressive color loss in hair by enhancing natural color and strengthening the hair's natural defense mechanism that are depleted with the breakdown of melanin production. This product is ideal for those with graying and silver hair.

Dry and fragile hair will relish Angelica Shampoo and Angelica Conditioner. The shampoo has lime blossom extracts and angelica oil to soothe and allay dry, damaged and color-treated or permed hair. Completing the action is the Angelica conditioner, which gives added softness and radiance.

Balancing chemicals in the hair is what the Mint Shampoo and Mint Conditioner do. Enriched with Moroccan lava clay and peppermint oil, the Mint Shampoo regulates excess oil flow and restores shine. Jojoba and peppermint oil in the Mint Conditioner render the hair tangle-free.

Myrtle and juniper oils in L'Occitane's Juniper Shampoo clear dandruff and prevent its recurrence.

L'Occitane is one of today's leading French body and skin-care companies. The Aromachology Hair Caroline and other L'Occitane products are carried exclusively by Rustan's.

Natasha's
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1st Top Group Seller & Best Credit Record
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- 2nd Top Group Seller - March 2001 - Feb 2001
- 3rd Top Group Seller of the Year 2000

ANTONETTE SUMAYOD
2nd Top Group Seller

KEITH JAYSON-HIDALGO
3rd Top Group Seller & Top Recruiter
- Owns 3 Dealer Outlets in Bangued, Abra • La Trinidad, Benguet • Agoo, La Union
- 4th Top Group Seller - March 2001
- 3rd Top Group Seller - Feb 2001
- 2nd Top Group Seller - Jan 2001 • Dec 2000
- Top Recruiter - Feb 2001

CHRISTOPHER GALDO
4th Top Group Seller
- Owns 6 Dealer Outlets in Pototan, Dumangas, Iloilo City, Iloilo • Jaro, Iloilo City • Kalibo, Aklan

NORMA IMPERIO
5th Top Group Seller

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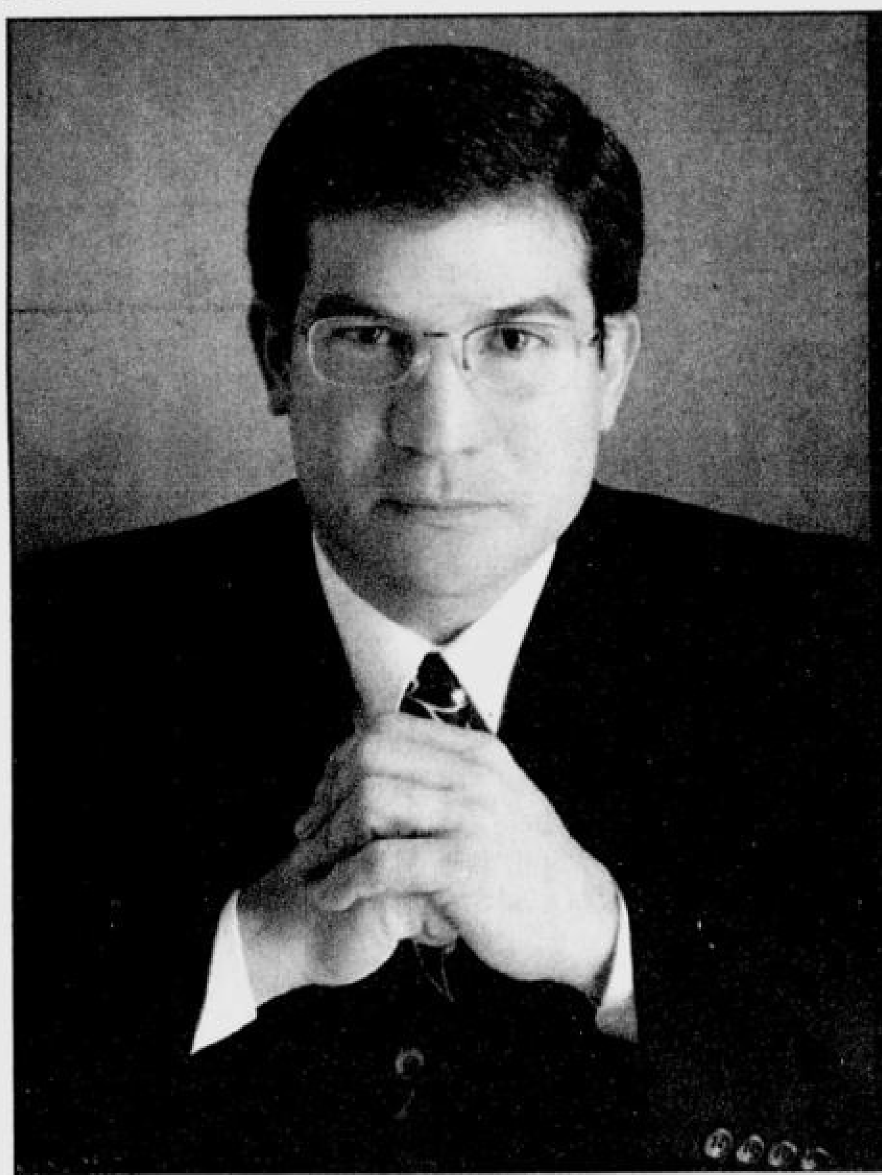

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New KODAK Progressive Lenses
The aesthetic clarity of thinner and lighter lenses

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KODAK high index lenses are thinner, lighter and more natural looking

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Kodak LENS

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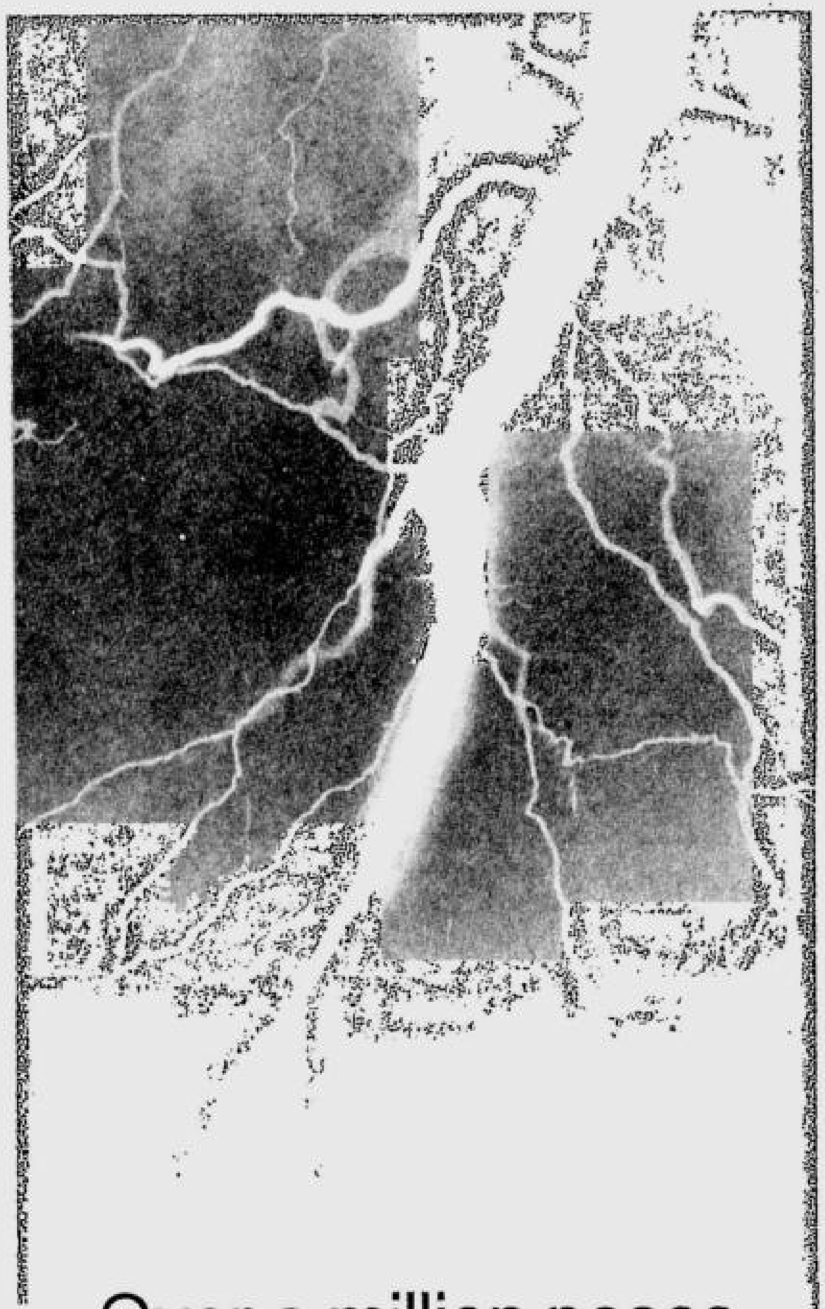

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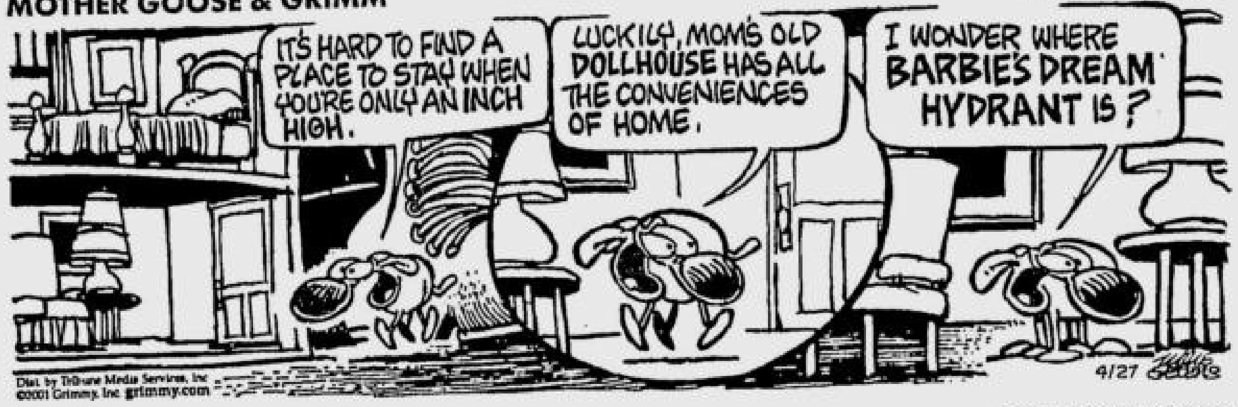
Sure! Especially with the bolts of gifts, free ₱250 call card for every phone kit purchase and lots more that await you!

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


IT'S HARD TO FIND A PLACE TO STAY WHEN YOU'RE ONLY AN INCH HIGH.
LUCKILY, MOM'S OLD DOLLHOUSE HAS ALL THE CONVENIENCES OF HOME.
I WONDER WHERE BARBIE'S DREAM HYDRANT IS?
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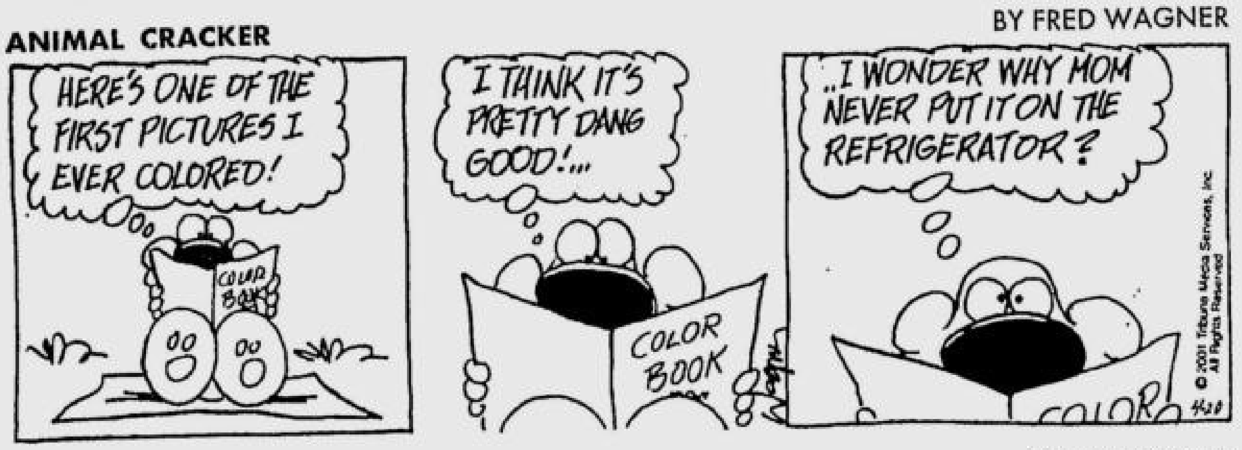
4/27

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


HERE'S ONE OF THE FIRST PICTURES I EVER COLORED!
COLOR BOOK
I THINK IT'S PRETTY DANG GOOD!...
COLOR BOOK
..I WONDER WHY MOM NEVER PUT IT ON THE REFRIGERATOR?
COLOR
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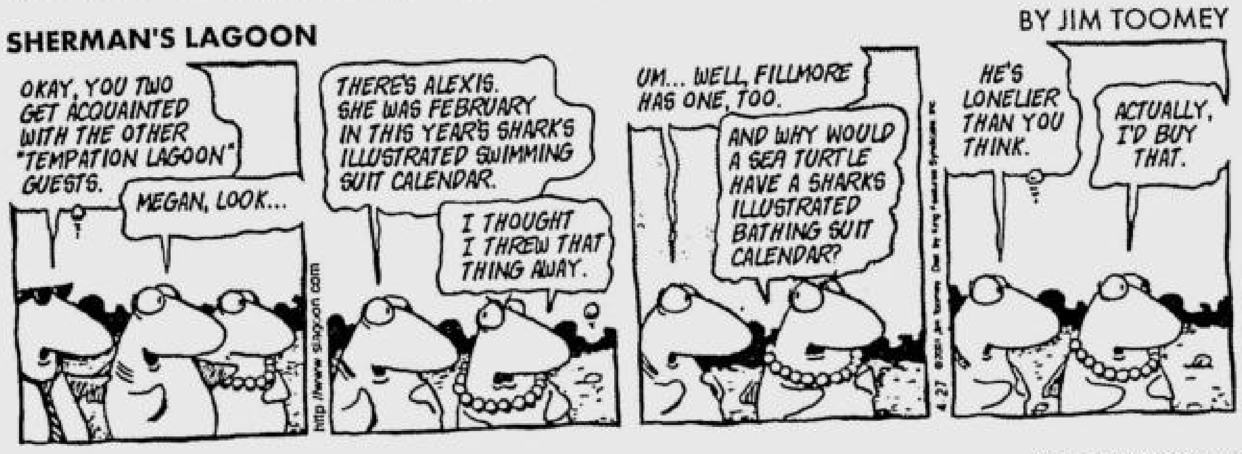
4/28

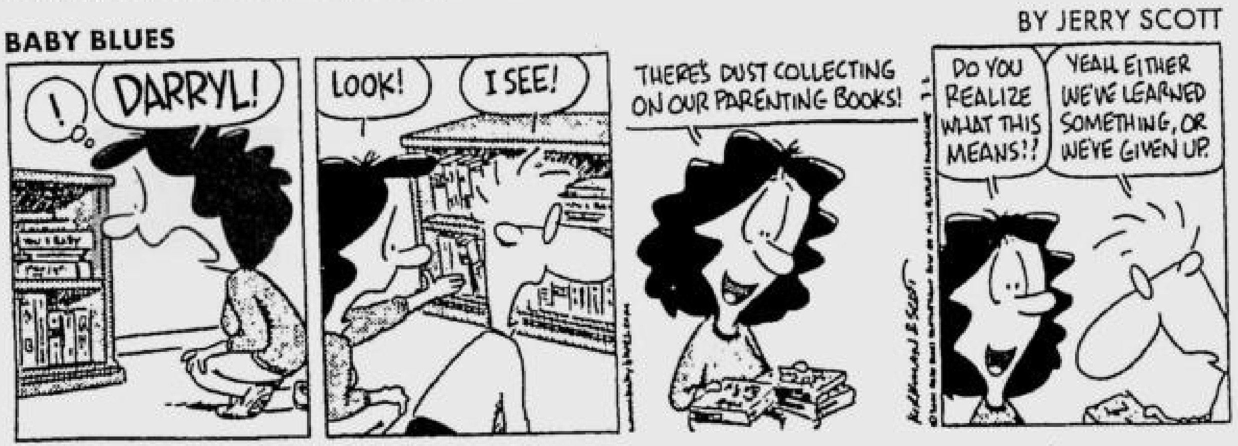
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, YOU TWO GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE OTHER "TEMPATION LAGOON" GUESTS.
MEGAN, LOOK...
http://www.slagoon.com
THERE'S ALEXIS. SHE WAS FEBRUARY IN THIS YEAR'S SHARKS ILLUSTRATED SWIMMING SUIT CALENDAR.
I THOUGHT I THREW THAT THING AWAY.
UM... WELL, FILLMORE HAS ONE, TOO.
AND WHY WOULD A SEA TURTLE HAVE A SHARKS ILLUSTRATED BATHING SUIT CALENDAR?
4-27
HE'S LONELIER THAN YOU THINK.
ACTUALLY, I'D BUY THAT.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


!
DARRYL!
LOOK!
I SEE!
THERE'S DUST COLLECTING ON OUR PARENTING BOOKS!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS!?
YEAH. EITHER WE'VE LEARNED SOMETHING, OR WE'VE GIVEN UP.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ian McKellen, Dixie Carter, Frank Oz, Robert Ludlum, Miles Davis, Jessie Colter, Jamaica Kincaid, Beverly Sills, Mike Myers, Lauryn Hill, Ann Heche

Happy Birthday: Don't try to do it all. You will fall short if you don't learn to focus. Say no if necessary. It's your year to plunge into the projects that will bring you recognition. You've done the groundwork, so perfect your talents and strive to reach your goals. You have a great future if you push yourself a little. Your numbers: 16, 20, 22, 36, 41, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotional upset will cause temper tantrums. Try to curb your reactions to situations regarding home and family. Busy yourself with projects that require minimal interaction with others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's best to get involved in activities that will get you out of the house. Romantic connections can be made if you approach someone you're interested in. It's time to say what you think.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Difficulties with children will surface if you break a promise. Rest and relaxation will be required if you've been trying to do too much. Expect stomach problems due to poor diet or stress.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You need to be disciplined and focused if you don't want your negative emotions to take over and ruin your day. Spend time making improvements to yourself. You'll be happy you did.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your outgoing personality will help inspire confidence in others. Get involved in events that require physical endurance. Your need to be in the limelight will bring out the showman in you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): New friendships can be established if you participate in social activities or worthwhile functions. Your ability to deal with groups won't go unnoticed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Someone you live with will be unpredictable. Avoid involvement with overindulgent individuals and take care of problems with your house immediately.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your keen memory will help you outsmart any opponent who tries to pull a fast one. Set the stage for your next big change. It's time to spruce up your image.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll make money if you're willing to put your cash on the line. A worthwhile investment may not be what your mate has in mind. Use your own cash and you won't have a problem.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make special plans for your mate and yourself. You can stabilize your relationship and make future plans.

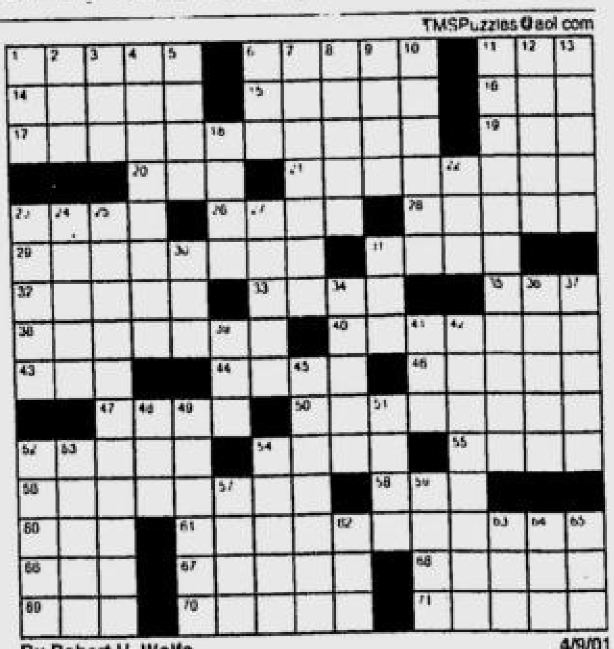
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let your work interfere with your responsibilities to loved ones. If you made a promise to do things with family, you mustn't renege. Your work will still be there when you get back.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Potential lovers will show interest if you are happy and positive. You need to join organizations that will allow you to grow.

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, protective and always desiring to please others. You're kindhearted and will always lend a helping hand when needed. You will gain popularity for your generosity.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

4/9/01

ACROSS
1 Cornhusker city
6 Refinement
11 Network of "Nature"
14 Wanders widely
15 Baseball teams
16 Corner pipe
17 Blues site
19 Truly
20 Actress West
21 Use the pews
23 Drunkards
26 Scorch
28 Create a gorge
29 Advances
31 Harbinger
32 Published slander
33 Inert gas
35 Sidekick
38 Heedlessness
40 Romberg operetta
43 Twitch
44 Flag down
46 Honshu port
47 Cherrystone, e.g.
50 Topmost moldings
52 Disenchanted fan
54 Lacoste or Levesque
55 Hiker's shelter
56 Stood on hind legs
58 Ribbon knot
60 Actor McKern
61 Saks site
66 Bikini top
67 Angers farewell?
68 Delete
69 Dispirited
70 Austin resident
71 Defy authority

DOWN
1 Spherical object
2 One Stooge
3 Gardner of film
4 Sailing masters
5 Cruising
6 Letters that explode
7 Military landing field
8 Villain's expression
9 Golf-bag items
10 Look up to
11 Lana Turner movie site
12 Run like madras
13 Senator Gorton
18 Splinter group
22 "Just the Way You __"
23 Sound of a wet impact
24 Small, brownish antelope
25 Erskine Caldwell site
27 Natural hair-coloring
30 Long-standing
31 Lennon's widow
34 Synthetic fabric
36 Poet Conrad
37 Minimum
39 Resistance measurement
41 Male offspring
42 In a manner of speaking
45 Cool refresher
48 Marvin or Majors
49 PLO leader
51 Singer McEntire
52 Future tulips
53 "Wozzeck" or "Norma," e.g.
54 Repair again
57 Take the bus
59 Beyond
62 Attila follower
63 Collar
64 Function
65 Sniggler's catch

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

U	L	S	T	E	R	■	A	P	P	E	A	S	E	D
S	I	E	R	R	A	■	V	I	E	N	N	E	S	E
E	N	D	I	N	G	■	I	N	T	O	N	A	T	E
L	E	A	P	S	■	D	A	T	E	S	■	M	A	P
E	A	T	■	■	R	O	T	O	R	■	S	I	T	E
S	T	E	A	D	I	N	E	S	S	■	L	E	E	S
S	E	S	S	I	O	N	S	■	■	W	O	R	S	T
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O	V	E	R	T	■	■	S	E	A	L	E	V	E	L
P	I	S	A	■	D	E	N	T	I	F	R	I	C	E
P	O	S	Y	■	I	V	I	E	D	■	■	B	U	N
O	L	E	■	R	A	I	D	S	■	F	A	R	A	D
S	E	N	T	E	N	C	E	■	P	A	R	A	D	E
E	N	C	H	A	N	T	S	■	O	R	A	T	O	R
S	T	E	E	P	E	S	T	■	L	O	N	E	R	S

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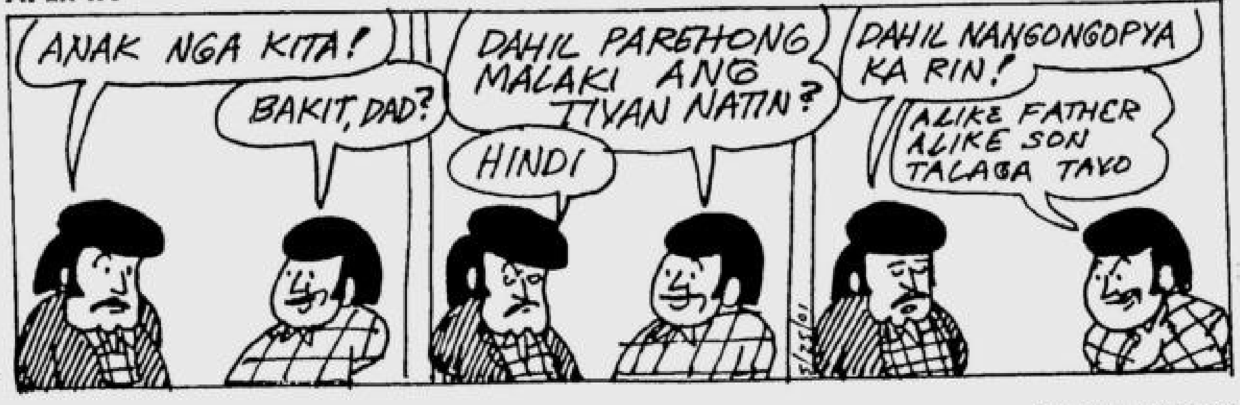
4/9/01

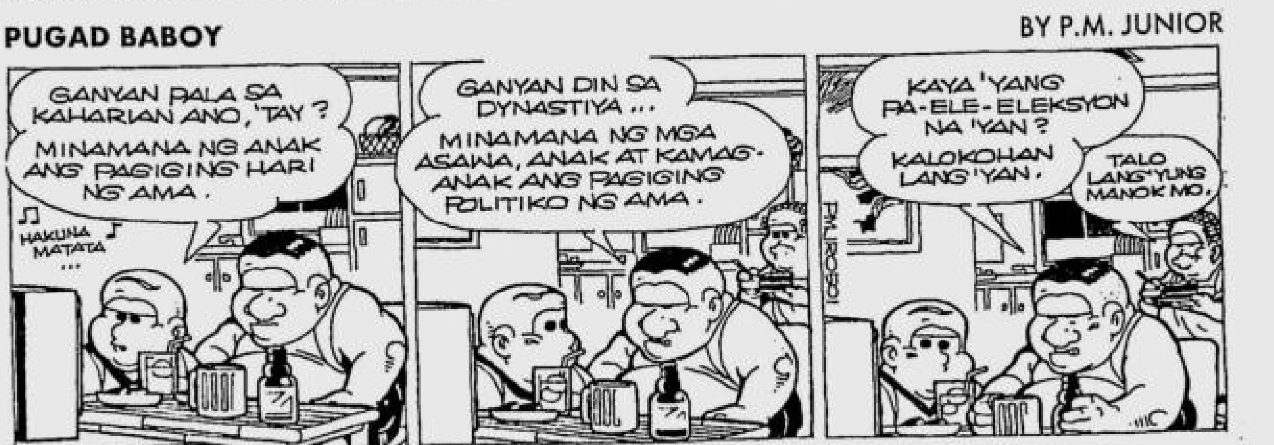
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANAK NGA KITA!
BAKIT, DAD?
DAHIL PAREHONG MALAKI ANG TIYAN NATIN?
HINDI
DAHIL NANGONGOPYA KA RIN!
ALIKE FATHER ALIKE SON TALAGA TAYO

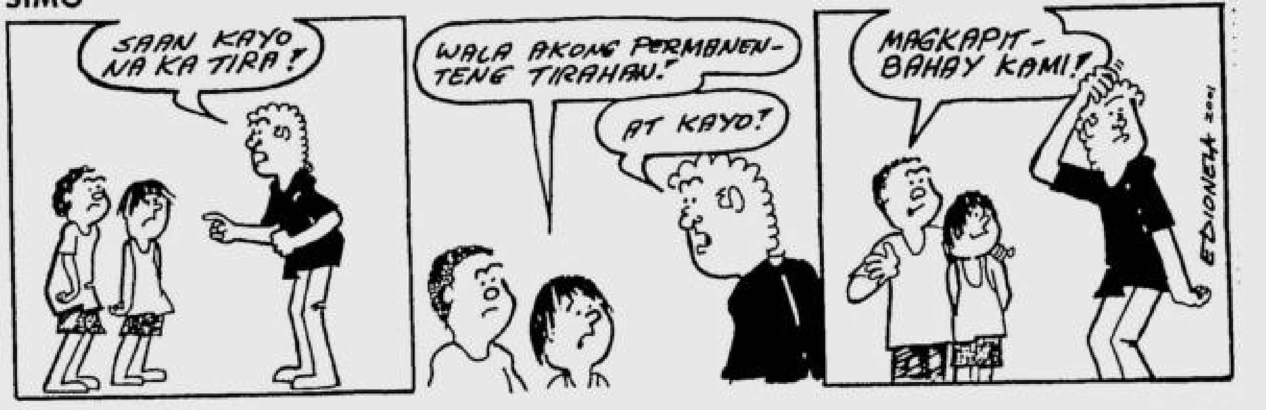
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


GANYAN PALA SA KAHARIAN ANO, 'TAY?
MINAMANA NG ANAK ANG PAGIGING HARI NG AMA.
♫ HAKUNA MATATA ♪ ...
GANYAN DIN SA DYNASTIYA...
MINAMANA NG MGA ASAWA, ANAK AT KAMAG-ANAK ANG PAGIGING POLITIKO NG AMA.
KAYA 'YANG PA-ELE-ELEKSYON NA 'YAN?
KALOKOHAN LANG 'YAN.
TALO LANG 'YUNG MANOK MO.

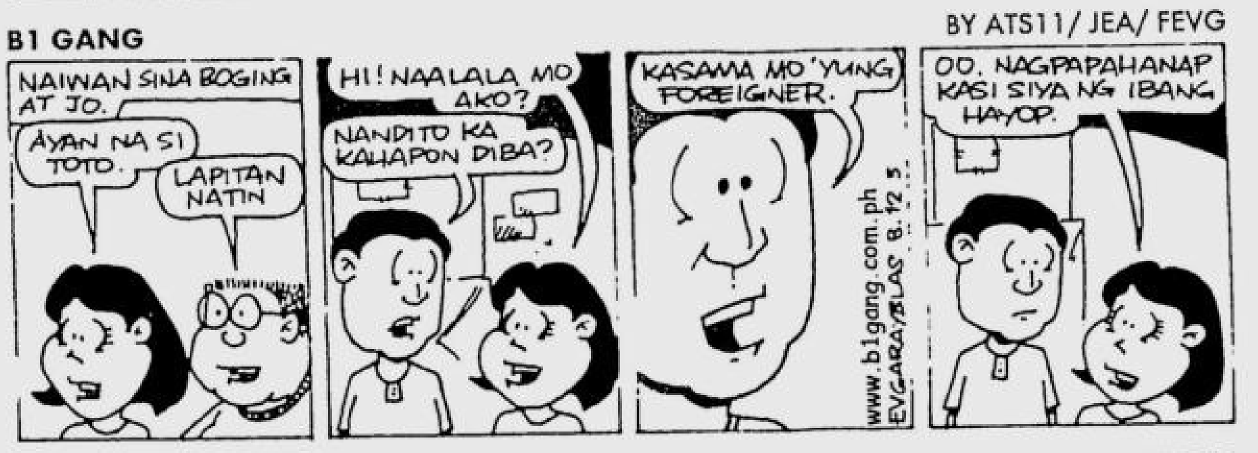
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SAAN KAYO NAKATIRA?
WALA AKONG PERMANENTENG TIRAHAN.
AT KAYO?
MAGKAPIT-BAHAY KAMI!
EDIONELA 2001

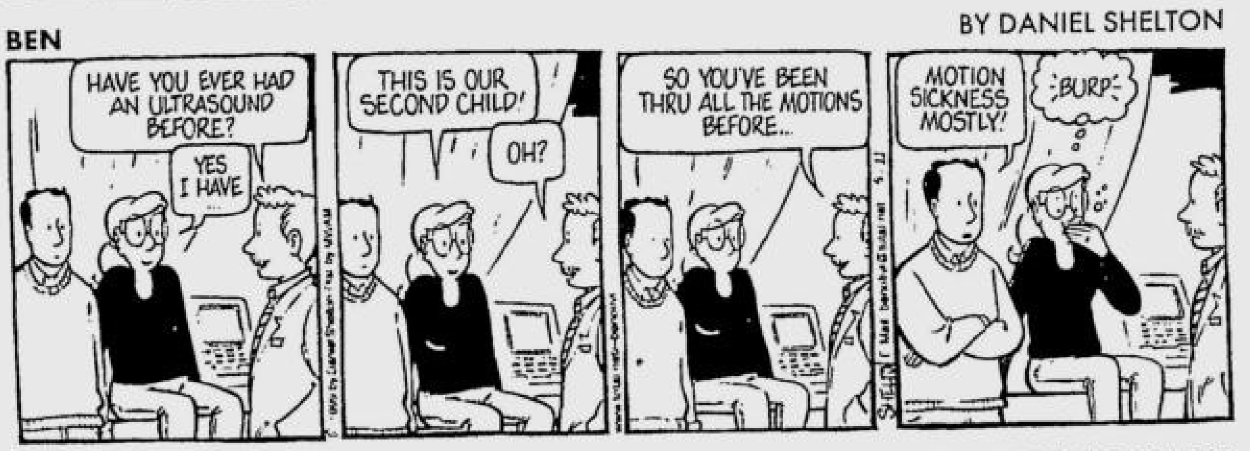
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


NAIWAN SINA BOGING AT JO.
AYAN NA SI TOTO.
LAPITAN NATIN
HI! NAALALA MO AKO?
NANDITO KA KAHAPON DIBA?
KASAMA MO 'YUNG FOREIGNER.
www.b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS 8.12.5
OO. NAGPAPAHANAP KASI SIYA NG IBANG HAYOP.

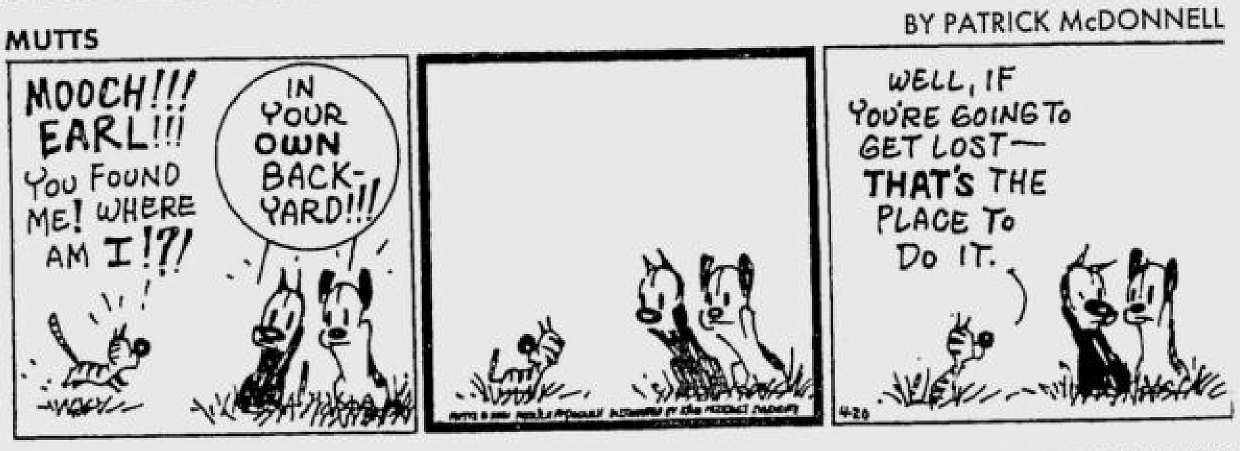
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HAVE YOU EVER HAD AN ULTRASOUND BEFORE?
YES I HAVE
THIS IS OUR SECOND CHILD!
OH?
SO YOU'VE BEEN THRU ALL THE MOTIONS BEFORE...
MOTION SICKNESS MOSTLY!
BURP

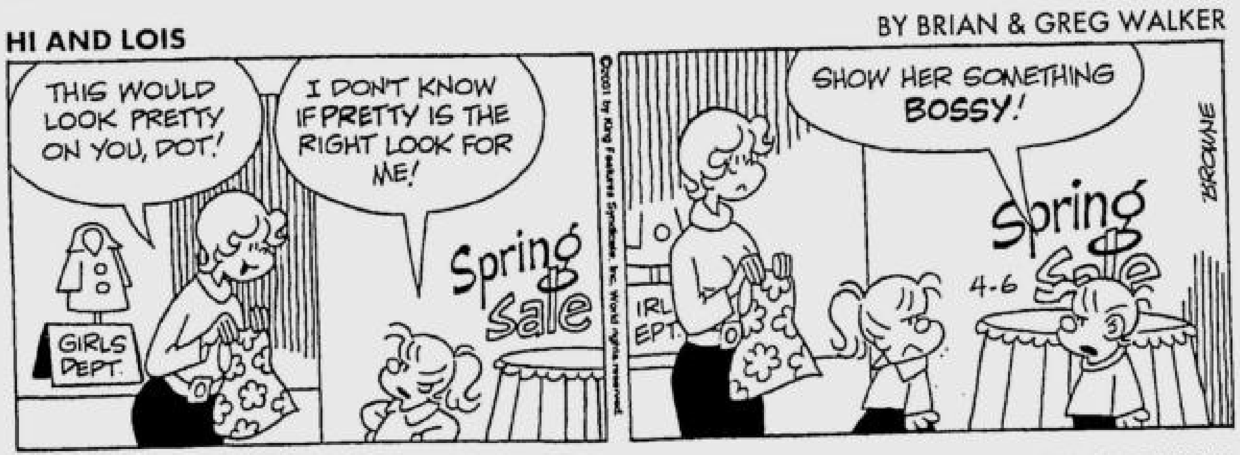
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MOOCH!!! EARL!!! YOU FOUND ME! WHERE AM I!?!
IN YOUR OWN BACK-YARD!!!
WELL, IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET LOST— THAT'S THE PLACE TO DO IT.
4-26

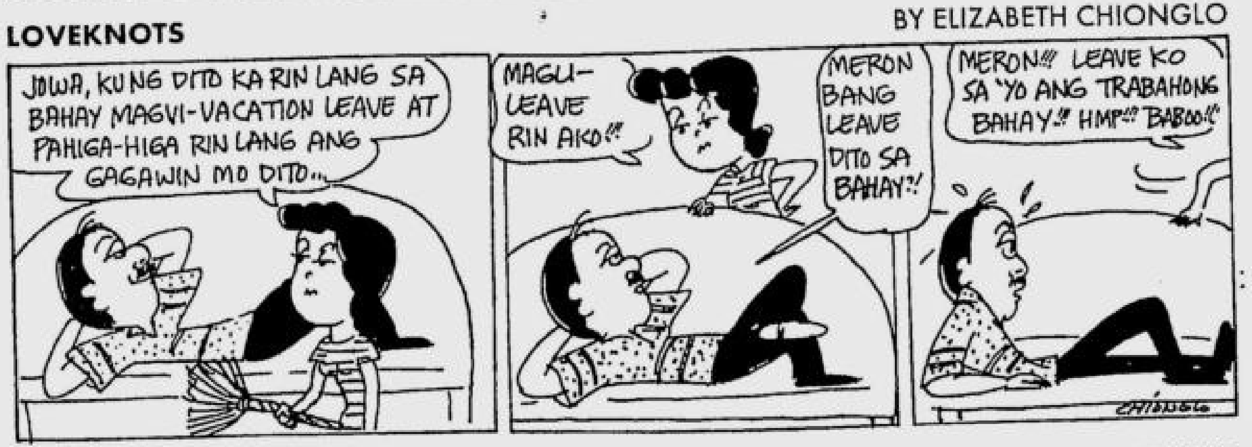
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


THIS WOULD LOOK PRETTY ON YOU, DOT!
I DON'T KNOW IF PRETTY IS THE RIGHT LOOK FOR ME!
GIRLS DEPT.
Spring Sale
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
SHOW HER SOMETHING BOSSY!
Spring Sale
4-6
BROWNE

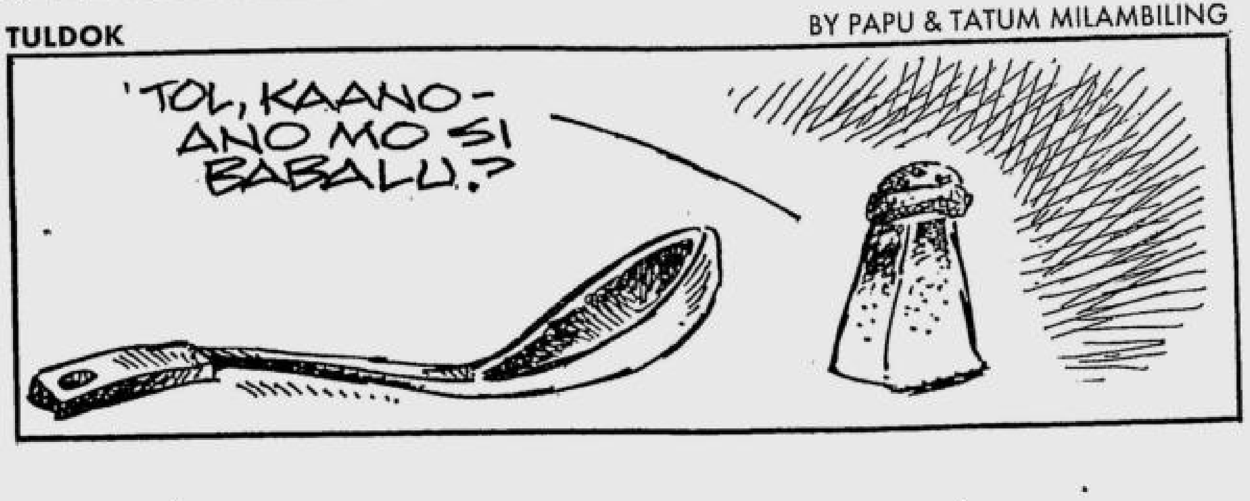
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

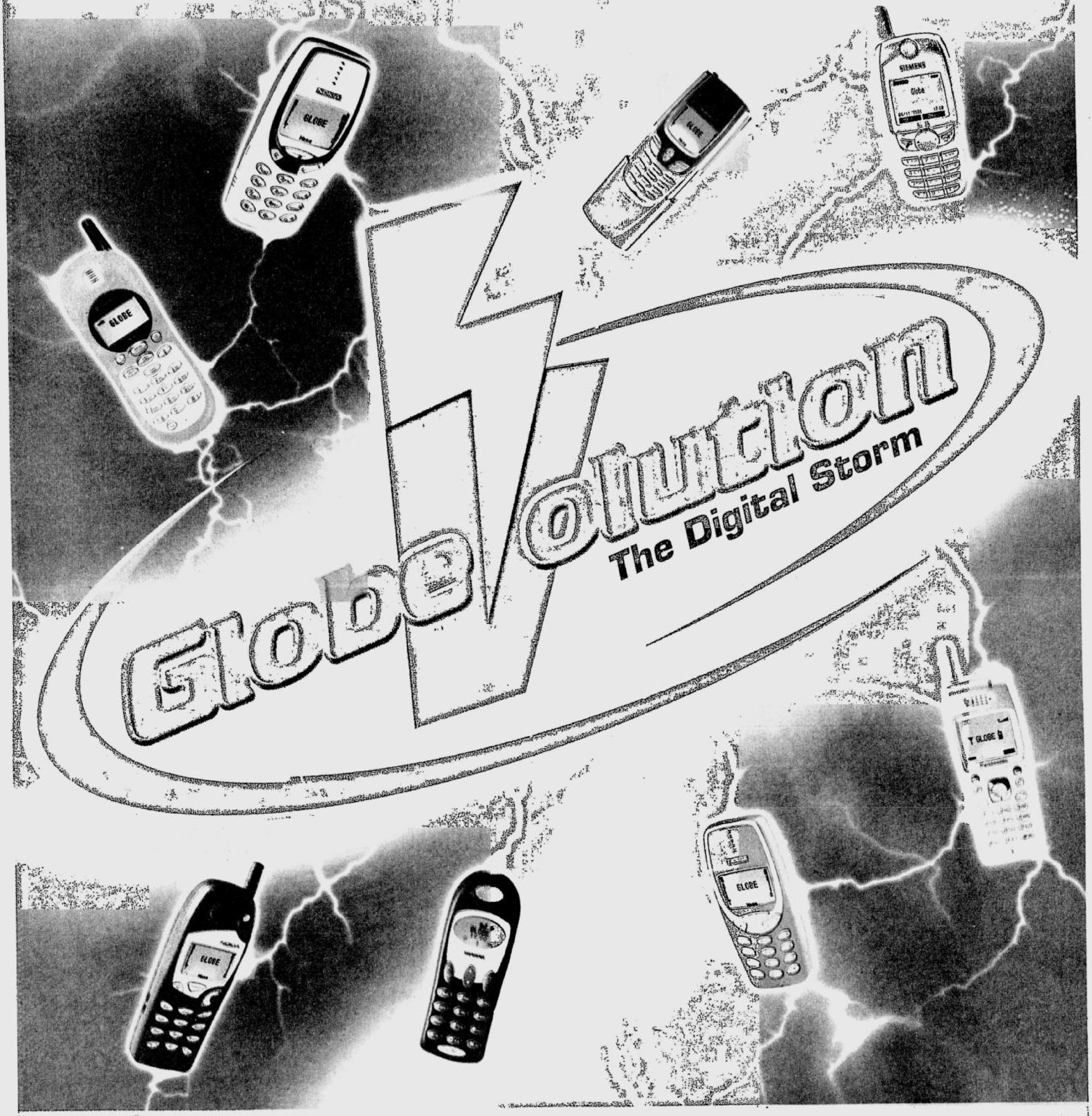

JOWA, KUNG DITO KA RIN LANG SA BAHAY MAGVI-VACATION LEAVE AT PAHIGA-HIGA RIN LANG ANG GAGAWIN MO DITO...
MAGLI-LEAVE RIN AKO!!
MERON BANG LEAVE DITO SA BAHAY?!
MERON!!! LEAVE KO SA 'YO ANG TRABAHONG BAHAY!!! HMP!!! BABOO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


'TOL, KAANO-ANO MO SI BABALU?

The cellular madness strikes again!



For a deluge of digital deals for new Plan and Pre-paid subscribers, Globe is all you need:

- **Discounts**
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  - Pre-paid phone kits as low as ₱2990 with free ₱550 call card value.
  - SIM packs as low as ₱350 for regular SIM.... ₱500 for GlobeXplore SIM. We'll even gladly insert the SIM for you!
  - Waived registration fee for all deals. 50% off on Advantage Plan.
- **Gifts, Prizes, Freebies**
  - All subscriptions, post or pre-paid, come with GlobeXplore SIM at no additional cost.
  - Free ₱250 call card value for every phone kit purchase.
  - Chance to win raffle prizes like cameras, Palm Pilots, cellphones, flat screen TVs, VCD mini-components, video cameras, DVD players.
  - Instant prizes for every subscription.
  - All new subscribers are also included in the 3M TNX 2 U draw for a Mercedes-Benz.
- **Credit Cards Deals**
  - Zero cash-out, zero interest. Cashless purchase with BPI, Equitable, RCBC, Bankard or Citibank credit card at deferred payment of 3 months. Applicable only for purchases ₱5,000 and above.
- **SIM Exchange**
  - Get Globe-connected — exchange your non-Globe working SIM and pay only ₱300 airtime value.

Hurry, May 25 to June 3, 2001 only!

Happening simultaneously at:
Alabang Town Center • Glorietta • SM City North EDSA
• SM Megamall • Ayala Center, Cebu • Victoria Plaza, Davao

See flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos. 1344, 0707, Series of 2001.

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ERICSSON NOKIA Panasonic SIEMENS

No-rinse feminine wash now out in the market

THERE'S great news for women who want to feel fresh and clean without the hassle of bringing a *tabo* to the office, school or even to the mall. The latest innovation in feminine hygiene is here, a new no-rinse feminine wash is finally out in the market.

Intima Feminine Wash was developed based on the Filipina's generation-old habit of washing intimate parts after each visit to the toilet. At home, she could do this with the ever-present *tabo*, a symbol of the Filipina's hygienic culture. When going out, however, washing becomes a hassle unless one carries a *tabo* to work, school or even to social events. Worse, most public toilets may not even have clean water.

Intima Feminine Wash is the answer to every woman's need to stay hygienic and fresh all day. The handy squeeze bottle makes Intima Feminine Wash even more convenient to use any time, anywhere—no water and *tabo* needed. Just squirt, wipe and go.

Developed with active ingredients lactic acid, aloe vera and chamomile, Intima Feminine Wash is a cleansing spray formulated to take special gentle care of the woman's vaginal area.

Intima Feminine Wash has lactic acid that balances the vagina's natural pH level and at the same time prevents odor-causing bacteria. The moisturizing property of aloe vera was also added together with chamomile to protect the vagina from irritation that causes rashes and itching.

The 50-ml bottle fits perfectly in your handbag and retails at a low price of P55. And with about 500 squirts per bottle, you can enjoy a lot of wash. It comes in two intimate variants: Fresh and Cool. Distributed by JDH (Phils.), Intima Feminine Wash is available at leading department stores, drugstores and supermarkets nationwide.

Intima
Intima
Intima
Intima

Bangkok for $0.00

In celebration of our 20th anniversary, we offer you the best of both worlds for the price of one.
From 16 April to 15 July 2001, every Manila-Europe roundtrip ticket purchased and flown entitles you or any person of your choice to a roundtrip Bangkok ticket of the same class, at no cost!*
With daily flights to Europe and Bangkok**, there really is no better way to fly.
Call your travel agent or Lufthansa service team at **810 4596** or book online at **www.lufthansa-philippines.com**

* see flyers for details; free ticket valid for use until 15 December 2001
** daily flights to Bangkok effective 02 May 2001

Per DTI NCR Permit no. 0375 Series of 2001

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A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

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Go **EPS shopping** and make **tuition time ...worry-free!**

In Back-to-School TUITION'S FREE!

Go back-to-school shopping with your **Express Teller's EPS** from April 30 to July 15, 2001, and you may get your child's **one-year tuition fee fully-paid up to ₱100,000!**

Plus! You may win back your shopping money **up to ₱5,000!**

Express Payment System

1. All BPI/BPI Family Bank Express Teller and BPI Direct ATM cardholders who use the EPS from April 30 to July 15, 2001 can join the promo.
2. Every ₱1,000 EPS purchase in a single receipt will qualify a cardholder to one (1) computer-generated raffle number.
3. Only a maximum of five (5) raffle numbers in a day will be assigned to an accountholder who used the EPS.
4. For the weekly draw, the following shall apply:
   - Three (3) winners will win back amount of EPS purchase up to a maximum of ₱5,000 per winner (minimum ₱1,000).
   - Computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchase on a particular day are valid for that week only.
   - An accountholder can win only ONCE in each week's draw. If drawn more than once, he will get the prize with the higher value.
   - All draws will be held at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City at 3 p.m. on the following dates:

Purchase Dates	Draw Dates
April 30 to May 6	May 9
May 7 to May 13	May 16
May 14 to May 20	May 23
May 21 to May 27	May 30
May 28 to June 3	June 6
June 4 to June 10	June 13
June 11 to June 17	June 20
June 18 to June 24	June 27
June 25 to July 1	July 4
July 2 to July 8	July 11
July 9 to July 15	July 18

   A DTI representative will be present at each draw.
   - The amount won will be credited to the winner's account within seven (7) working days after the draw date.
5. For the Grand Draw, the following shall apply:
   - There will be three (3) grand draw winners.
   - All computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchase within the promo period are qualified for the Grand Draw.
   - The three (3) Grand Prize winners shall each be entitled to reimbursement of one-year tuition fee of one first degree family member of school age (elementary to college) up to a maximum of ₱100,000 subject to submission of proof of tuition fee payment or school assesment and birth certificate of the child.
   - Otherwise, if client does not have a first degree family member of school age, or if client cannot submit required documentation, client then wins a cash prize of ₱50,000.
   - Grand Draw will be held on July 18, 2001 at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City at 3 p.m. A DTI representative will be present to witness the draw.
   - An accountholder can only win once. Taxes on all prizes shall be shouldered by BPI.
   - All Grand Draw winners can claim their prizes at 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati. Just present your Express Teller Card and one (1) valid ID (drivers license, Company ID, SSS).
6. List of account numbers with corresponding computer-generated raffle numbers will be available at the following locations;
   - BPI Main Branch, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City
   - BPI Family Bank Main Branch, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
   - BPI Baguio-Burnham Branch, Baguio City
   - BPI Cebu-Mango Branch, Cebu City
7. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Complete list of winners will Be published in a major newspaper with national circulation at the end of the promo.
8. Unclaimed prizes after 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited with prior approval from DTI.
9. All Express Teller/BPI Direct accounts that are closed/terminated, dormant, under litigation or garnished during the promo period are disqualified.
10. All employees of BPI Unibank, its PR and advertising agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified.
11. In case of dispute, the decision of BPI Unibank, with the concurrence of DTI, shall be deemed final.

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BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1228 Series of 2001

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FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2001
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQU
LIFESTY
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Cool Brittania in hot Manila

CLASSIC DENIM. She sports the American look with this yellow and red raglan shirt and dirty denim skirt with a rainbow cardigan. It goes with red shades, multicolored hair accessories and a blue elastic belt. He wears a navy pullover with industrial denims.

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

TOUTED as Britain's largest provider of young fashion, the Top Shop/Top Man store has come to Manila via the 1,000-sq m store at the Robinsons Place Padre Faura Wing. Also in the store is the younger and funkier label Miss Selfridge. These are the best-selling labels of the Arcadia Group, Britain's second-largest clothing retailer. Top Shop's flagship store on Oxford Street, London is the largest fashion store in the world at 9,000 sq m. Among their competitors are the M&S (Marks & Spencer, Bhs and Next).

Unless you've been to London or read British editions of fashion magazines, Top Shop/Top Man may seem arcane. It started international business a few years ago and has opened stores in Singapore, Taiwan and Japan. Having studied the Philippine market, international

COOL/ p.D4

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NOW OPEN FOR FRANCHISE
EARN HIGH DESPITE THE ECONOMIC CRISIS
SOON TO OPEN: NS Amorante formerly Retiro & Antipolo

SOLD OUT — because we don't sell out.
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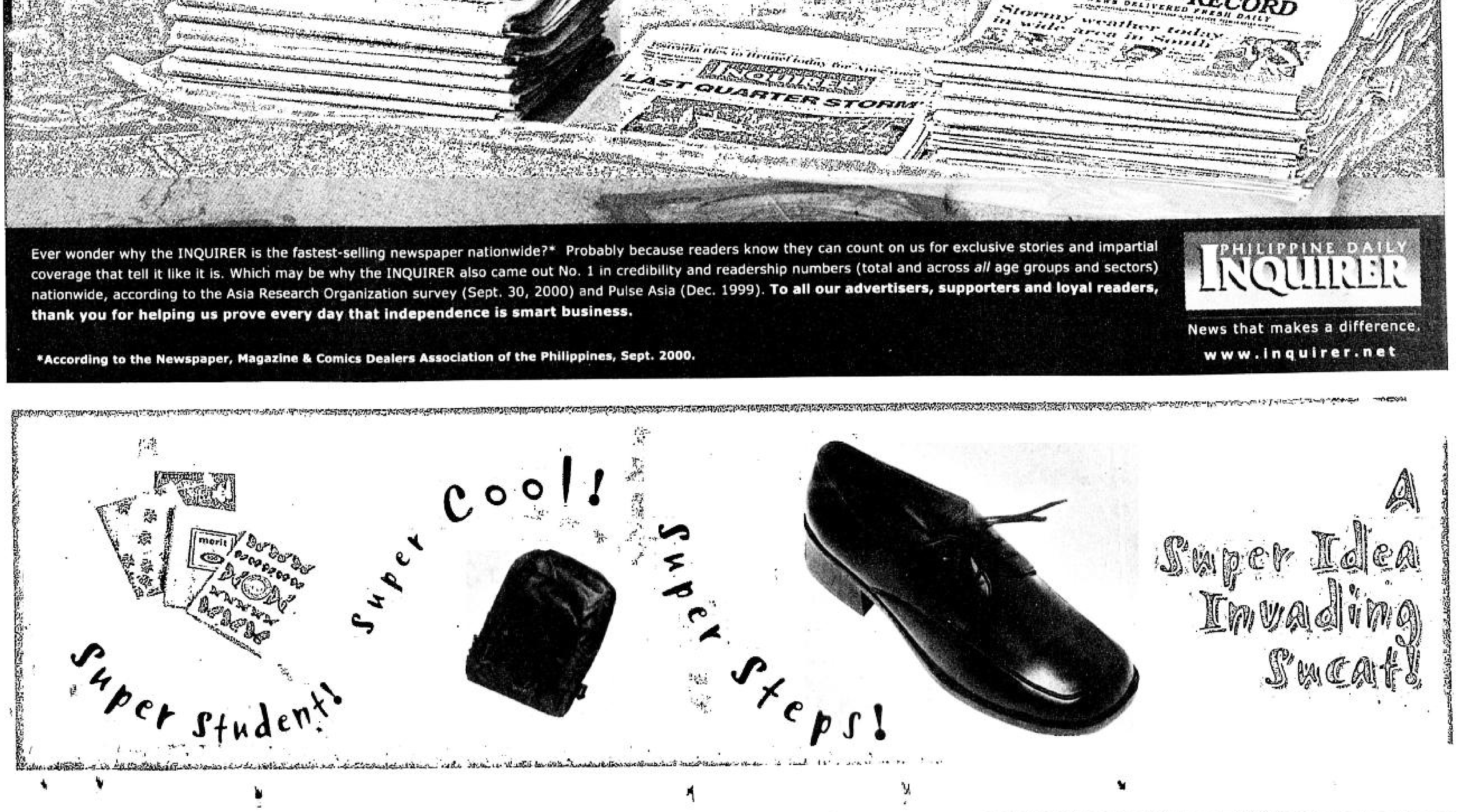
Nightmare must be
INQUIRER
LAST QUARTER STORM
METRO RECORD
NEWS DELIVERED FRESH DAILY
Stormy weather today in wide area in South

Ever wonder why the INQUIRER is the fastest-selling newspaper nationwide?* Probably because readers know they can count on us for exclusive stories and impartial coverage that tell it like it is. Which may be why the INQUIRER also came out No. 1 in credibility and readership numbers (total and across *all* age groups and sectors) nationwide, according to the Asia Research Organization survey (Sept. 30, 2000) and Pulse Asia (Dec. 1999). **To all our advertisers, supporters and loyal readers, thank you for helping us prove every day that independence is smart business.**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference.
www.inquirer.net

*According to the Newspaper, Magazine & Comics Dealers Association of the Philippines, Sept. 2000.



Autism society holds lecture series

GOINGS-ON

THE AUTISM Society of the Philippines presents the 2001 Lecture Series on Autism. The lectures will be held at the Ecumenical Building, National Council of Churches in the Philippines, 879 Edsa, QC, with the following schedule: "Adaptive Sports Activities and Physical Fitness for Special Children," May 26, 1-5 p.m.; "Developing Alternative and Augmentative Communication in Persons with Autism," June 1, 1-5 p.m.; "Behavior Management of Autism: A Parent's Perspective," July 21, 1-5 p.m.; "Autism: What You Need to Know," Oct. 14, 1-5 p.m. Call 926-6941 or 434-9249.

JEANS SALE. Jag Jeans offers big summer sale at all SM Department Stores nationwide until June 3. Get the hottest from Jag Jeans' summer 2001 collection—from trendy frayed jeans, hipsters and capris to ultra-chic halters, tank tops, belly-baring tees and bandeaux.

SM Supercenter Sucat, the 11th SM Supermall, opens its doors to the public. It brings SM's shopping, leisure and entertainment excitement to the South Metro Area.

TRAINING COURSE. The Women and Gender Institute of Miriam College holds its 3rd International Women's Human Rights Summer Training Course on May 28-June 2. The training is the first academe-based women's human rights course in the Philippines that examines the use of international human rights instruments from gender and Asian perspectives. Call 927-2421, 925-5635 or 435-9229.

HONG KONG SALE. "The Greatest Sale on Earth: Hong Kong Celebrities' New and Second-Hand Sale" will be held June 12-17, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. at the Hong Kong Exhibition Center, Room 404-406, 4/F, Low Block, China Resources Building, 26 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong (across Wanchai Police Station). Call Ms Lee at (852) 2543-3313 or e-mail thevenue@netvigator.com

AUDITIONS. Villa Teatro will hold special auditions on June 1-2, 1:30-5 p.m., at Villa Teatro Rehearsal Studio, 8A Sacrepante St., near Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City. Call 746-0211.

SCREENWRITING WORKSHOP. Jun Lana will once again share his expertise in a screenwriting workshop tomorrow at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman, QC. Call 412-9312.

MERCHANDISING SEMINAR. The Philippine Retailers Association, with the Philippine International School of Fashion (La Salle College International of Canada and St. Scholastica's College), will hold a seminar on visual merchandising in fashion retail, dubbed "Windows to Creative Merchandising," on May 30, 1-6 p.m. at the Edsa Shangri-La. Call 687-4985 or 636-0825.

CONCERT. The Lingkod ni Yahweh Community Music Ministry, the first prize winner in the 2nd Awit à la Angel Christmas Carol Competition, and the internationally acclaimed University of Santo Tomas Singers will have a back-to-back concert dubbed "Two for the Road" on June 8, at the Imus Cathedral in Imus, Cavite. Call (046) 471-5264, (0917) 640-5519, (046) 970-7698, (0917) 643-1232.

PRODUCT LAUNCHING. It will be a luxurious L'Oreal Sunday at the Glorietta on May 27, with the launching of L'Oreal's Professionals' all-new Contrast, and a fashion show with Mega's Style Annual Fashion Designers. There will be free hair color consultations to be provided by the L'Oreal Style Society. Call 817-2940.

SEMINAR-WORKSHOP. A re-echo of the seminar-workshop on "The Emerging Technologies, Trends and Issues on Library and Archival Management" is set on July 4, 5 and 6 in Tagaytay Country Hotel. Call 929-2180, 927-3201, 527-9672 or 416-3587.

Electronic lifestyle card broadens shopping horizons

AS the list of Mondex Card merchants keeps on growing, the e-lifestyle of the future will keep on getting better.

This microchip-based Wallet of the Future has very good news for its cardholders. After trying out the Mondex Card at the posh Shangri-La Plaza mall in Edsa, they can now dine and shop without using actual cash at Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas.

For the latest styles and trends, you can visit fashionable boutiques such as Anonymous, Blued, Ensembles, Fish, Folded & Hung, Freeway, Karimadon, The Black Shop and Toby's Sports and Hobbies.

Also visit Itti Shoes and Manel's Leather Goods for bags and other ladies' accessories.

For photography requirements, Robinsons Galleria hosts several camera stores, such as Kameraworld, Kameraworld Disk Store, Photoline and Rams Studio. Other practical items can be bought using Mondex Card at Personalized Greetings.

Use your Mondex Card for pasta, pastries and other specialty favorites at Cravings Café, native dishes at Binalot, and have a creamy dessert at Dairy Queen.

Transaction is speedy, safe, secure. Just present the Mondex Card to the store attendants and in seconds, everything is paid for down to the exact centavo, so you never have to carry loose change in your pockets. There's also a Mondex top-up station located at the Galleria Foodcourt level near Shakey's, where you can reload cash to your Mondex microchip, or buy Mondex Cards.

Also inside the Mondex top-up station are exciting items that you can get in exchange for the Mondex Rewards Points you earn every time you make a P50 purchase.

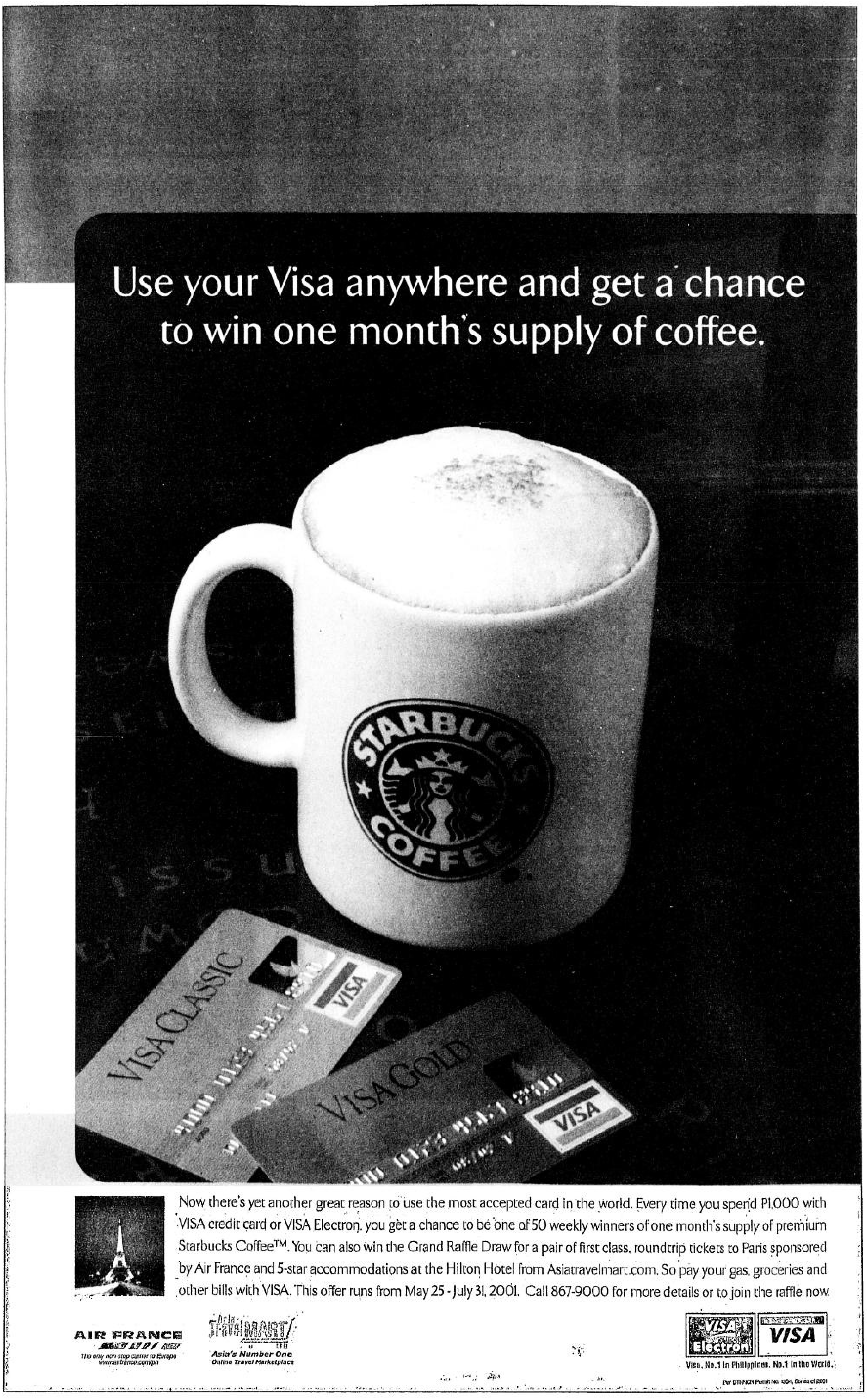
Bar tour closes in Ortigas, Malate

LEVI'S announces the final leg of the "Super Low Bar Tour" in Ortigas Center and Malate on May 25 and 26, respectively.

Summer is almost over but the crowds are screaming for more fun, more excitement, more thrills to quench their undying thirst for soiree and adventure.

The weekend nights of May 18 and 19 sizzled up as the young and gorgeous Levi's Campus Models when they visited the hottest bars and dance floors in Makati and Quezon City. Limited edition Levi's tumblers and CD cases were given away as prizes to the night owls. The people enjoyed the fun and games at TGIFridays, Virgin Café and Decades on Morato, and Pier One and Cactus in Libis, all in Quezon City; Ché, Struan and Tangs, K8, H and H, Wherelse and 78orange in Makati.

Get a chance to win Levi's premium items and discount coupons and catch the Levi's Campus Models on the last leg of the Levi's "Super Low Bar Tour" on May 25 at TGI Fridays (El Pueblo), Watering Hole, Chef and Brewer, San Mig (El Pueblo), Tequila Joe's (El Pueblo), Limits and Fluid. On May 26, take a stroll down the Malate area and catch the tour at Havana, Common Ground, Krakatoa, Bed Rock, Jekyll and Hyde and the Republic of Malate.


Use your Visa anywhere and get a chance to win one month's supply of coffee.

Now there's yet another great reason to use the most accepted card in the world. Every time you spend P1,000 with VISA credit card or VISA Electron, you get a chance to be one of 50 weekly winners of one month's supply of premium Starbucks Coffee™. You can also win the Grand Raffle Draw for a pair of first class, roundtrip tickets to Paris sponsored by Air France and 5-star accommodations at the Hilton Hotel from Asiatravelmart.com. So pay your gas, groceries and other bills with VISA. This offer runs from May 25 - July 31, 2001. Call 867-9000 for more details or to join the raffle now.

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Asia's Number One Online Travel Marketplace

VISA Electron VISA
Visa, No.1 in Philippines. No.1 in the World.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1264, Series of 2001

MILLENNIUM BACKPACK

Boblee is a unique cargo system that follows the contours of the body. It gives ample support and distributes the weight to be carried. It reduces stress, which otherwise be placed on the back. Its hard shell is made of zinc iron. Nuts and bolts connect the shell to a flexible back plate through a water-sealing rubber gasket and aluminum ledge. Available at Rustan's.

Fresh picks from Italy

THERE'S simply no stopping the flow of Italian fashion at Linea Italia.

Classic suits—whether for men or women—get the Dolce & Gabbana treatment so expect business wear to be as savvy as ever. The latest from Pinko includes hip leather jackets, trendy tops and skirts, and fabulous scarves that can be mixed and matched, while Mariella Burani's newest offering is as stylish as ever—from suits and jackets for the workplace and dresses for a night about town.

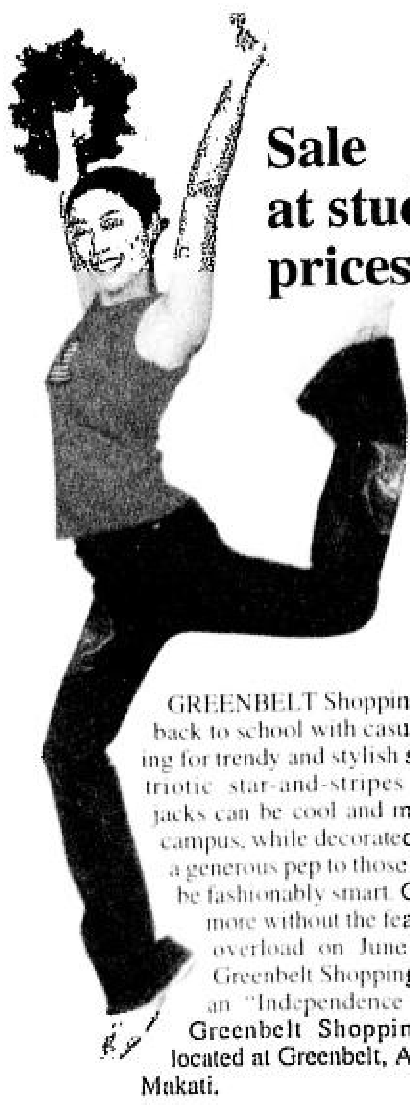
Jegains Muttiolo offers a number of chic picks—fashionable shirts, printed dresses and pants. Also check out the latest from Selene, Coserare and Aspesi Thu. Accessories include the hottest bags from Genny, Sergio Soldano and Mima and stylish shoes from Emmegi, Divina, Melodia and A Migliorini.

For men, there are suits and blazers from Fendi, Dolce & Gabbana and Radaelli that can be paired with shirts from Roberto Guiducci and Gallia. Messori, currently one of the hottest labels off the Italian runway, offers a wide selection of shirts and pants for men. Then there are the latest in men's shoes from Navajos and Walk & Fly.

MESSORI, currently one of the hottest names in Italian fashion, is now available at Linea Italia.

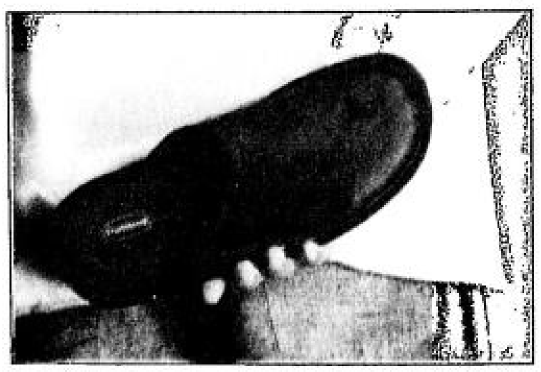
Linea Italia's latest Italian fashion collection is available at the following shops: Linea Italia 6750, Linea Italia, Versace Jeans Couture (Greenbelt Mall), Prima Linea, Viva, Linea Uomo, Uomo Tu and Capolinea.

Sale at student prices



GREENBELT Shopping Plaza goes back to school with casual hip dressing for trendy and stylish students. Patriotic star-and-stripes and union jacks can be cool and modish in the campus, while decorated denims add a generous pep to those who want to be fashionably smart. Get these and more without the fear of a budget overload on June 8-12 when Greenbelt Shopping Plaza holds an "Independence Day Sale."

Greenbelt Shopping Plaza is located at Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati.



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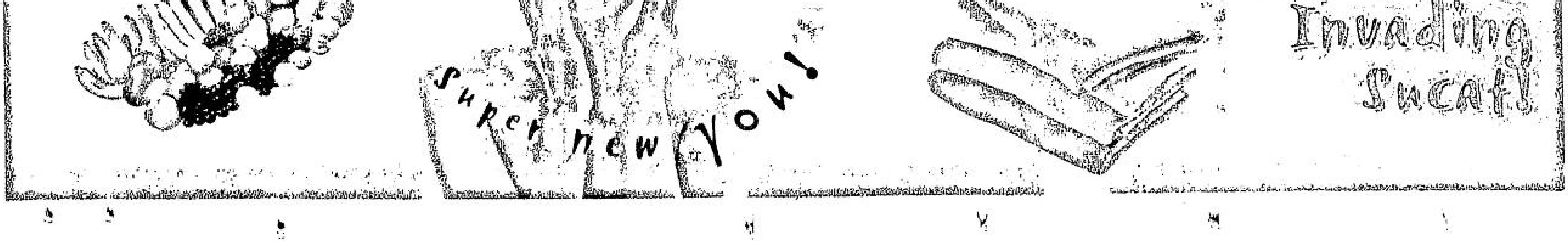
Johnson & Johnson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Super Comfy!
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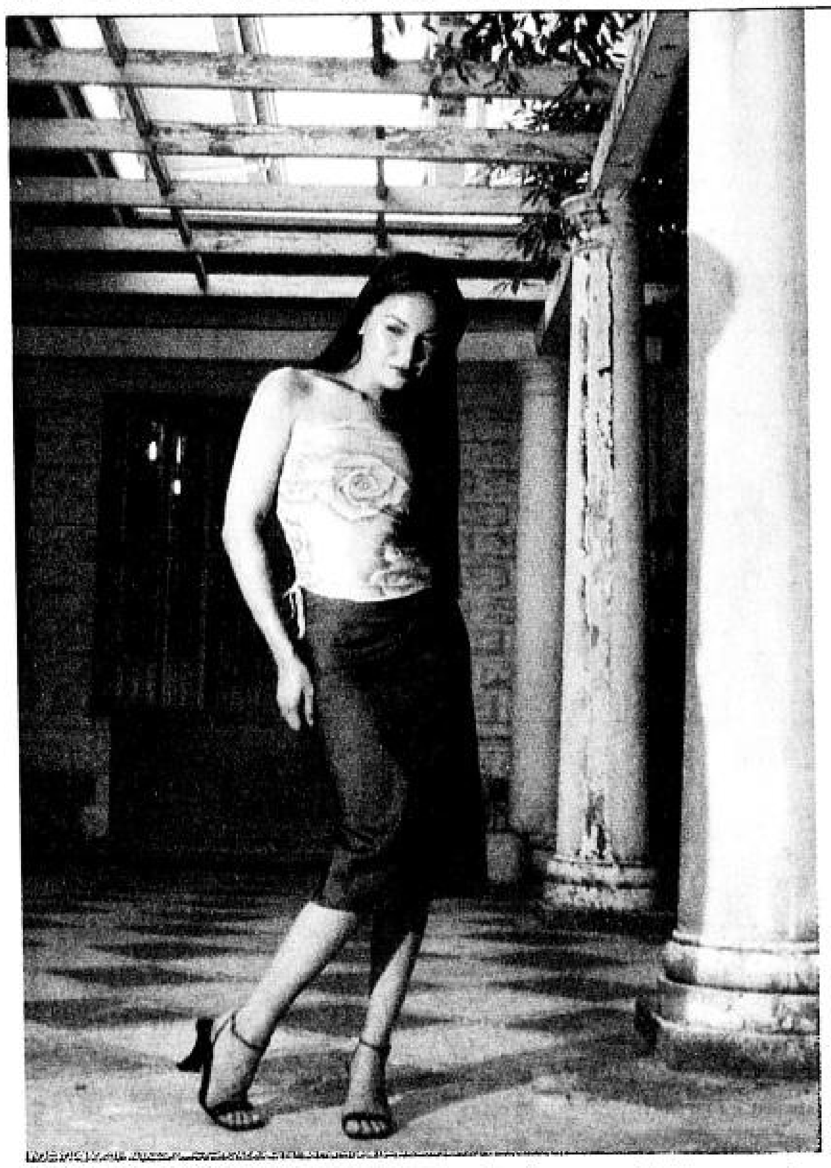
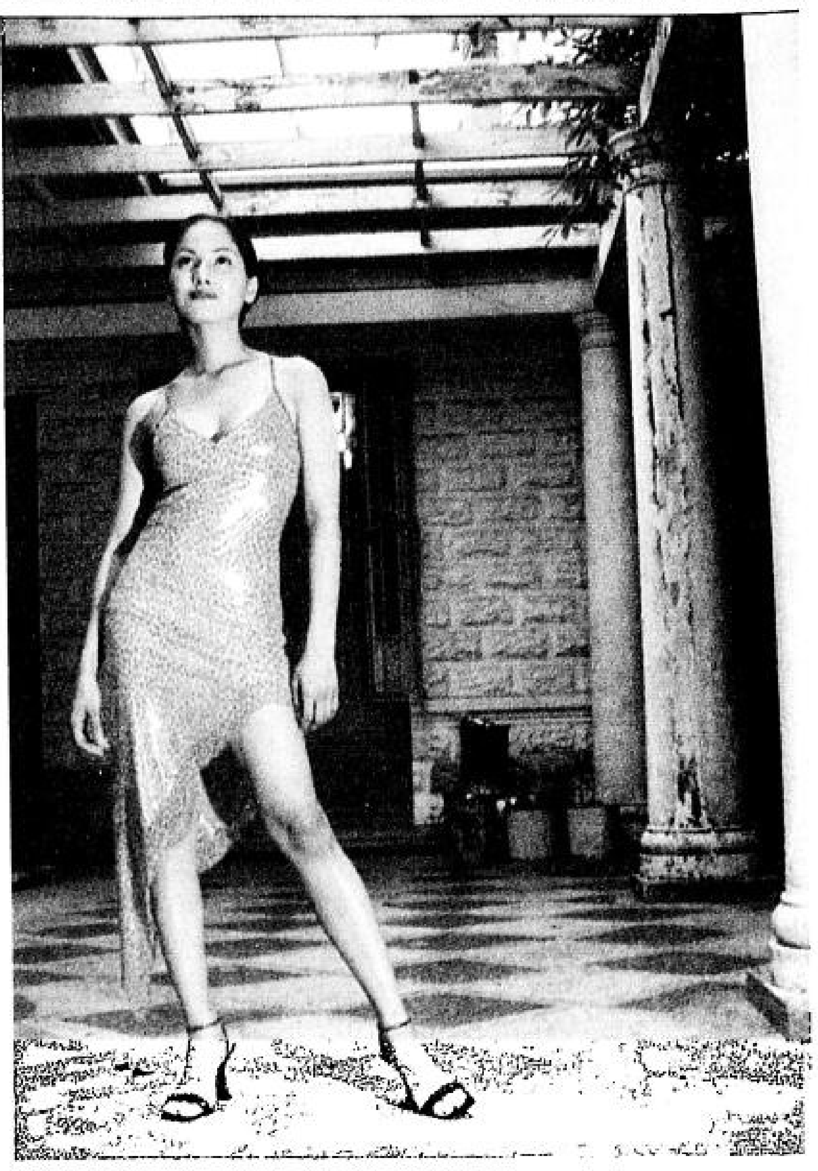

SEXY. She wears a metallic blue floral-printed asymmetric blouse and a denim skirt with a zip-up slit from Miss Selfridge.

WORKING CLASS. She wears a striped asymmetrical blouse that goes with a black coat and skirt. He wears a lilac polo shirt and black pants.


FUCHSIA leopard-printed asymmetrical slip dress

Cool Brittania in hot Manila

MODELS: ELENA ANDAYA AND MIKO JAVIER
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY MANNI IBAY
MEN'S SHOES BY SKECHERS
LOCATION: AVELLANA AND ASSOCIATES GALLERY, PASAY CITY

(From page D1)

marketing coordinator Gina di Gregorio observes that Top Shop/Top Man has found a niche right between the imported and local labels. "There are a lot of international brands, but they have high prices; the local brands are reasonably priced. We fit right into the middle," she says.

The T-shirts from Miss Selfridge are as low as P495 and the lined jackets from Top Shop/Top Man cost less than P4,000. Shirts made from high-quality fabrics cost P1,085 while pants cost P1,845.

Inspirations

Top Shop/Top Man targets the 18-30 market. The brands have been known for their distinctive styles at affordable prices. Top Shop and Miss Selfridge were established in the mid-'60s when fashion became youthful and boutiques in London had eclipsed couture houses.

In the United Kingdom, the t-shirts cost between £7-18 and jeans cost £20. The stores offer a friendly environment, replete with theme racks and shelves of accessories, sexy underwear and cosmetics.

Top Shop and Miss Selfridge started in the '60s, the era when clothes became smaller and bolder. Nearly 40 years later, fashion has remained body-conscious. Top Shop has developed a collection for the working woman, featuring the season's black-and-white graphic looks, day-to-night looks and suits with asymmetric tops.

Top Shop/Top Man, one of the UK's top-selling labels, leads the British invasion of Philippine fashion

Like most high-street manufacturers, these labels derive their styles from various sources such as extreme street fashion. The design team visits such places as the clubs and Portobello and Camden Markets. The designers also get their ideas from outside western fashion, radical innovations, revamped versions of previous fashion styles.

Di Gregorio says these labels are usually the first to introduce a look which their competitors adopt a year later. "The team sees what people are wearing and they try to make it accessible to everyone," she says. For instance, last year the military look dominated the runways. Miss Selfridge offers khakis, vests, T-shirts with red accents to denote power. For the sophisticated Top Shop, the look comes in khaki dresses, separates accented with fluorescent colors and garterized belts.

RETRO '50S. She wears a stretch sleeveless top under a checkered blouse and teams it with cropped denim pants. He wears a checkered polo and khaki slacks with sport cap.

PUNK. She wears a spray Union Jack T-shirt, faded denims, leather wristband and totes a matching Union Jack bag. He wears an Omega black T-shirt, denims and body bag.

Top Man caters to the guy who likes fashion but is not too trendy. The clothes are just right—safe but not boring.

Quick deliveries

What makes the store tick in the UK is the weekly delivery of new styles to keep the market excited. This ensures a quick turnaround.

The selling point of these labels is the trend. The clothes are divided into major directions. The American look dominates the collections—bomber jackets, vintage collegiate shirts emblazoned with numbers and logos, sportswear, cut-off T-shirts and fleece tops. In Top Shop, Michael Kors is an influence in the St. Tropez collection, which is a mix of sultry clothes with clas styles, or as he says, "Jennifer Lopez meets Jackie O." Marc Jacob's Manhattan street look is interpreted in anoraks and zip-up shirts, cheeky T-shirts and denims.

The British label reflects its patriotism in the funky union jack range, inspired by Gerri Halliwell's dress.

The '50s retro is interpreted through capris in various proportions, circle skirts, raglan tops and pencil skirts and blouses with bandeau collars. If Miss Selfridge has punk for the clubwear, Top Shop has the disco collection, replete with sparkly tops, made for postbaby boomers who were infants in that era. Classics such as ginghams and checks are also prevalent. The clothes exude humor, bright colors and vivid patterns. The men's shirts offer oriental-inspired tattoos and dragon prints.

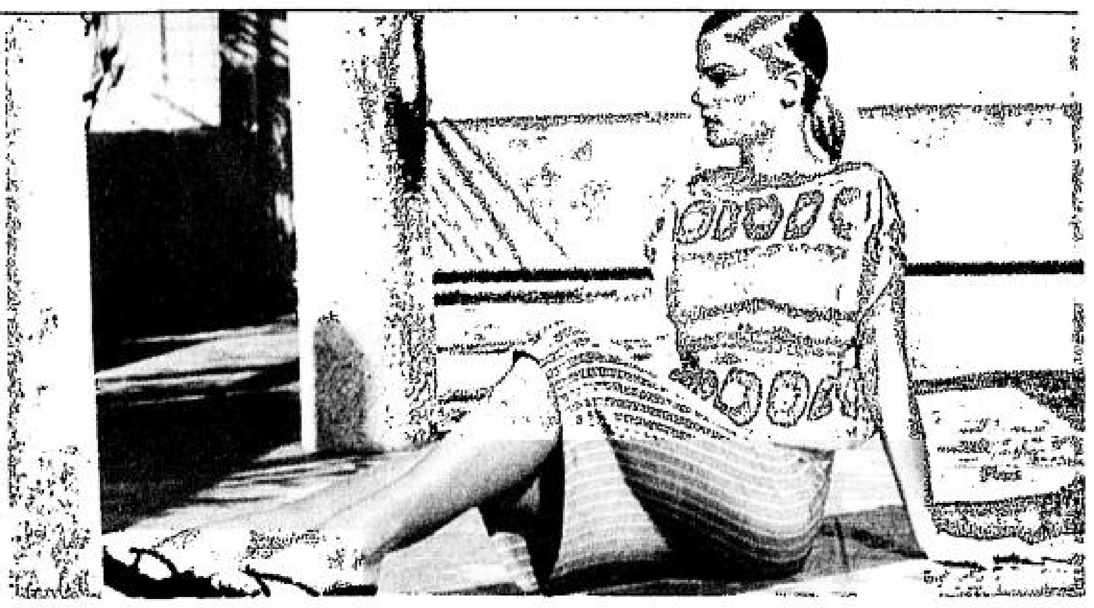
Denims come in various treatments, such as ink, distressed or paint-splashed. In the Miss Selfridge label, badges and appliques enliven the denim separates. You've got to be fit to get into Miss Selfridge clothes. There are lots of bikinis, which allow the customer to mix and match the tops and bottoms. There are cleavage-enhancing necklines, midriff tops, skimpy shorts and halter types—the sexy clothes that baby boomers wore in the early '70s.

Whether you're 14 or 40, and you've got the cool Brit attitude, you can get away with these clothes.

MILITARY LOOK WITH A TWIST. He wears a navy T-shirt and Moto khaki capri. She wears a khaki camouflage bra under a khaki stretch shirt and accessorizes it with a dog tag and green shoulder bag.

SCALLOPPED V-neckline top in blue and white stripes with red piping and attached necktie by Tan-Gan

STRIPED top worn over a floral-printed orange chiffon blouse with back hot pants by Ocampo



ORANGE printed top with boat neck accented with an obi and a green and white vertical striped skirt by Gaupo

Printed matter

IT'S black, white and stripes all over, with an occasional floral bouquet for contrast, at the SM Boutique Square as designers Lulu Tan-Gan, Mike de la Rosa, Efren Ocampo and Cesar Gaupo reveal in their new collection 'tis the season of high contrast, graphic glamour and bold florals.

Blue skies and stripes highlight knit queen Tan-Gan's new clothes. Tan-Gan describes her collection as "casual and soft with space-dyed texture." These cotton blended knits "go well with denims, canvas and twill bottoms, and compliment blue denim trends." Attached neckties, keyhole and drawstring details, plus the red piping, give these separates added fashion appeal.

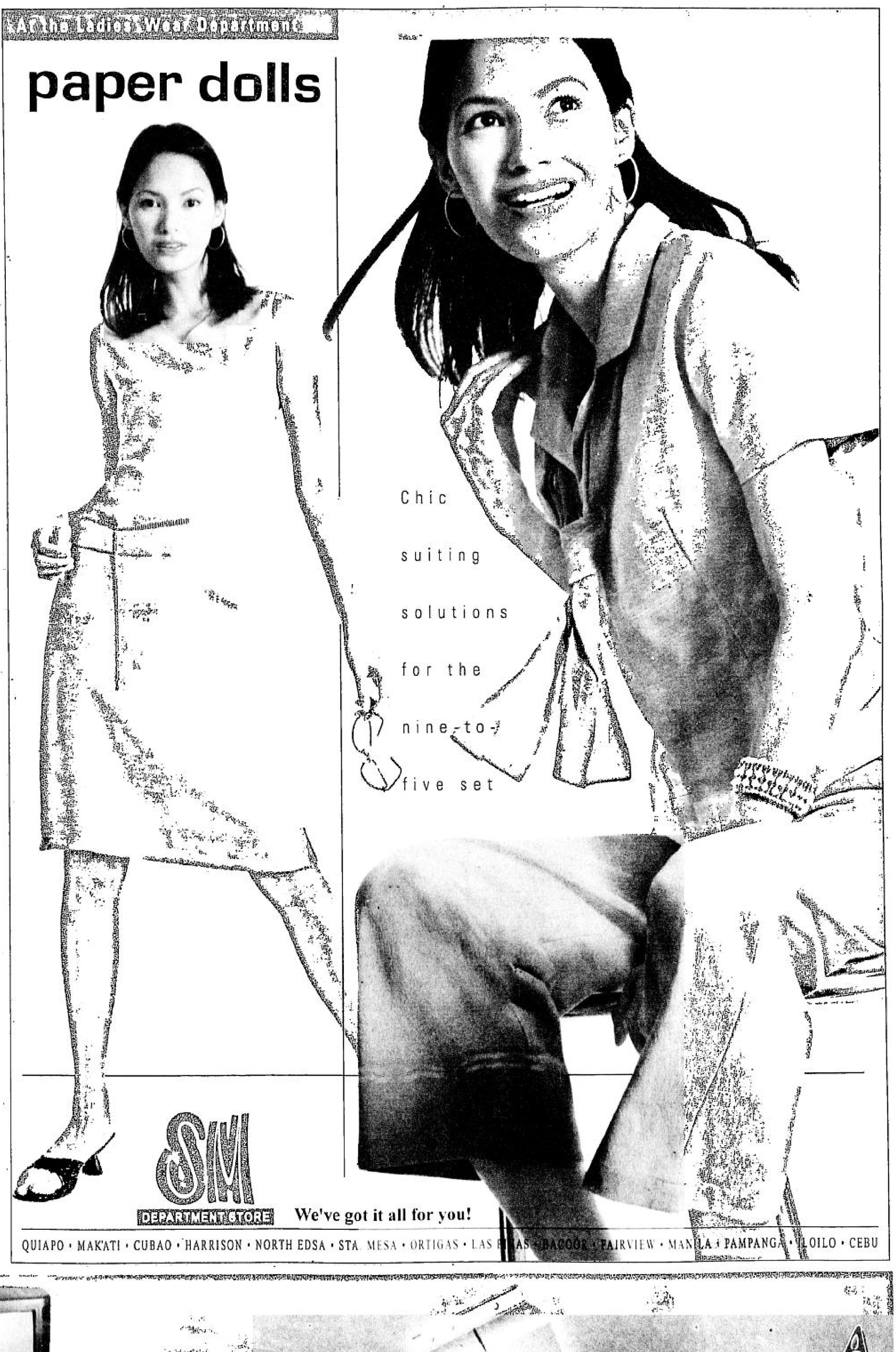
Black and white are the colors of the moment for De la Rosa. He mixes abstract prints with black in his latest line, which he describes as "an integration of lifestyles from formal to corporate to casual dressing." As can be expected, his clothes are very clean and classic, and it is the subtle mixing of crepe and knit separates that give it attitude.

Ocampo retains his soft and feminine allure amid this positive/negative rush by mixing floral prints with black-and-white stripes. His blooms, however, are anything but dainty. Rather, they are bold and flamboyant with an air of exoticism. In a season of high contrast, he mixes tailored with feminine lines—jackets over bias tops and skirts, spaghetti-strapped blouses.

Gaupo's clothes reveal a youthful and free-spirited energy. With a color palette ranging from black and white to vivid oranges and greens, Gaupo also mixes eastern and western sensibilities. Obi sash details and Oriental-inspired floral prints on one hand, modern stretch materials on the other.

The collections of Tan-Gan, De la Rosa, Ocampo and Gaupo are available at the SM Boutique Square.

DE la Rosa's abstract printed crepe dress



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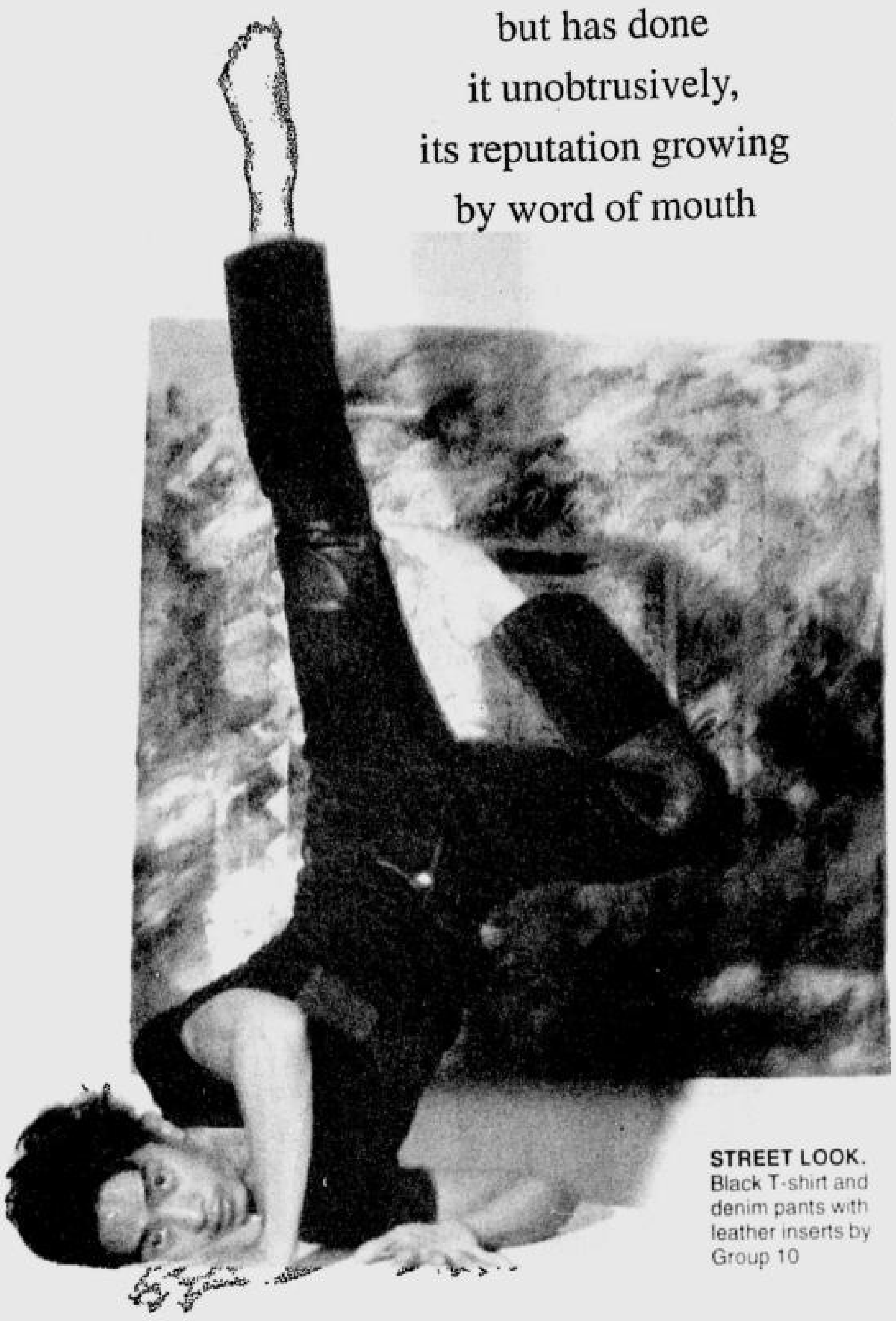
Homme et Femme
has been spelling out
what style is since 1996
but has done
it unobtrusively,
its reputation growing
by word of mouth



STREET LOOK. Black T-shirt and denim pants with leather inserts by Group 10

STONE Island khaki and Martin Margiela sleeveless shirt

Subtle arbiter of style

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

HOMME et Femme is one of Manila's best-kept secret. While entrepreneurs spend enormous amounts of money on publicity or seek ways to influence fashion editors and persuade an elite group of customers to buy a new look, this store has grown in sales by word of mouth. Homme et Femme doesn't sell beautiful clothes; it seeks to be an arbiter of subtlety and taste.

"The company has a mission. We want to be an influence. We want a store that will spell out what style is and what isn't. Style is subjective. It's very personal. It's something that makes you feel good and look good. We don't want other people to copy somebody else," says Mark "Jappy" Gonzalez, president of Source Mediterranean and spokesman of Homme et Femme.

The store has the savvy to recognize and translate the nascent and inarticulate tastes that are taking shape in its clientele.

Starting out

That know-how didn't happen overnight. Gonzalez honed his marketing skills by starting out as an assistant buyer for Cinderella in 1985. At that time men's ready-to-wear was scarce. He noted that there was a gap in the market for affordable clothes that suited the young adult male. He developed his own line, Japs, an abbreviated version of his nickname Jappy.

Japs was a hit because the clothes were stylish and affordable. This inspired more private labels in the store. The time was right. In 1986, the country was still euphoric about its restored democracy. Businessmen were optimistic and bullish and consumer spending was liberal. By the late '80s to the early '90s, malls were springing up, giving rise to new stores and more branches for the established chain stores.

As the menswear business grew, Gonzalez rose up to the ranks as division merchandising manager for men. The responsibility included handling the imported menswear, the imports from Hong Kong and research and development.

Through time, Gonzalez's taste became more sophisticated, albeit a bit advanced for the local market. He also found it frustrating to develop a local label since there was no fabric industry to support it. In fashion, a great part of successful clothing lies in the right material. He then felt that it was time to move on.

Gonzalez observed the lack of fashion-forward clothes in Manila. He saw the need for an alternative to the conservative stores that sold foreign labels. With three other partners, he established Homme et Femme, a discreet 200-sq-m space at the Shangri-La Plaza mall in 1996. The store specializes in brands that the partners personally wanted.

STRIPED shirt and pants by Costume National

Viability

It was a challenge for Gonzalez and his partners to convince the principals since they had no track record as big-time entrepreneurs. With the gift of gab, they were able to ink deals and bring in good brands. Over the years, they've acquired a reputation for professionalism in the industry.

In the past five years, these entrepreneurs have reassessed and reevaluated the viability of their merchandise. The labels are adjudged according to their timeliness and timelessness.

For instance, a few years ago Romeo Gigli was hot. But the fickle market found his styles too redundant. Costume National has been the store's strongest label.

"It sticks to modernity. It's brash, sexy and has the right mix of oldness and newness," says Gonzalez. "Everything is cut small. That's brave for a men's line and yet it has achieved an international following."

Women trim down from a European size 44 to fit into size 40 of a Costume National dress. Men say they love Costume National but they have to remove a few inches off their waistline to get into their pants. A couple of months later, they return to the store, ready to make a purchase.

The store doesn't carry the big luxury brands. You won't see logos or ruffles, as they don't reflect its image.

Growing

Homme et Femme was established when the economy was at its peak. In the past five years, its sales growth has doubled amid the spiraling exchange rate and economic uncertainty. The average growth rate is 20 percent per quarter despite the fact that the store has been very low key in the media.

It has a niche market that's recession-proof. The customers came by word of mouth.

Once a client complimented the store by saying, "Although you don't advertise, people who need to know come here. That's the Velvet Mafia."

Before the Asian crisis, the store placed orders when the exchange rate was P26:$1. When the merchandise arrived after eight months, the peso plunged to P39:$1. Gonzalez says it's one of the risks of the business. Nonetheless, clients kept snapping up the items since the price wasn't any different if it was bought in the United States.

Image plays a key role in the boutique's success. Homme et Femme is not just selling clothes but a mindset. It caters to clients who want to look good to feel good and not to look stylish to gain acceptance. The market mix consists of entrepreneurs, executives in creative fields and celebrities.

The store doesn't cater to people who ask why an outfit costs P25,000. These customers not only understand quality but they are also adventurous.

MARTIN Margiela shirt and Costume National pants

"The psyche of our customers is that they aren't interested in being icons. It's more than just looking good. They have a life," says Gonzalez. These clients dress up because they've earned it. You won't see clients who prim for the cameras.

What's brave

Asked what being daring meant to the Filipino, Gonzalez cites, "a slightly fitted shirt, pants with a lower waist and pointed shoes. That's nothing in Milan."

You need to be observant to find the styles in the store. "We're not a black store," says Gonzalez, even if this color will be hot in the latter part of the year with the advent of new wave fashion. Earlier, we saw some chartreuse and lavender shirts being purchased.

His success principle is simple. "You've got to understand the business and have the passion for it." There's no formula in merchandising as the fashion industry is fickle. "At the end of the day you have to trust your judgment," he says.

A good merchandiser can second-guess his clients' needs. He or she can also convince clients that they can be more daring in their choices by making them realize that clothes are activated by putting them on in the same way that bodies are actualized by the garments they wear.

Homme et Femme has also earned trust for its discretion. It will not reveal to husbands what their wives bought. It doesn't name-drop famous clients. Neither does it believe in dressing them up.

The store has maintained its integrity by being honest with clients. If a dress doesn't suit a customer, the staffers are frank enough to say so even if it doesn't result in a sale. They look forward to a long-term relationship.

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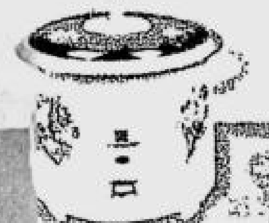
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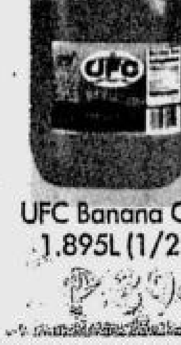
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& hot sauce 155g 5's
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Minola Cooking Oil
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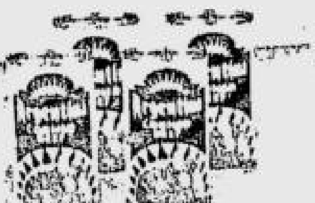
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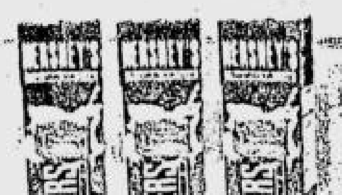
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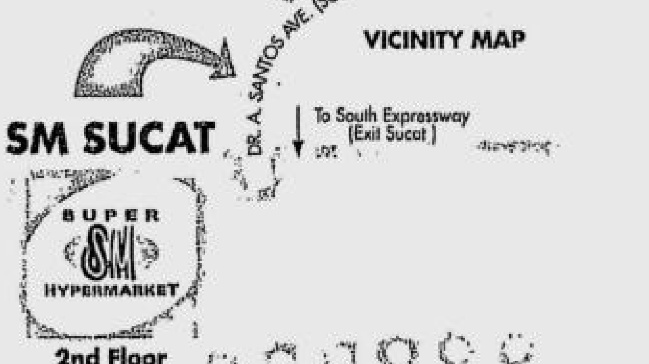

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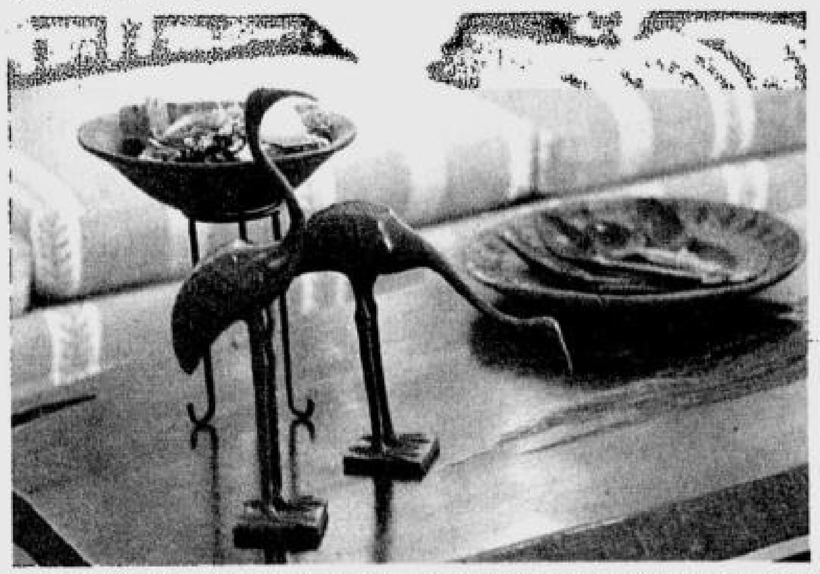
Neophyte's expert skill in crafting space

(Story on page E2)



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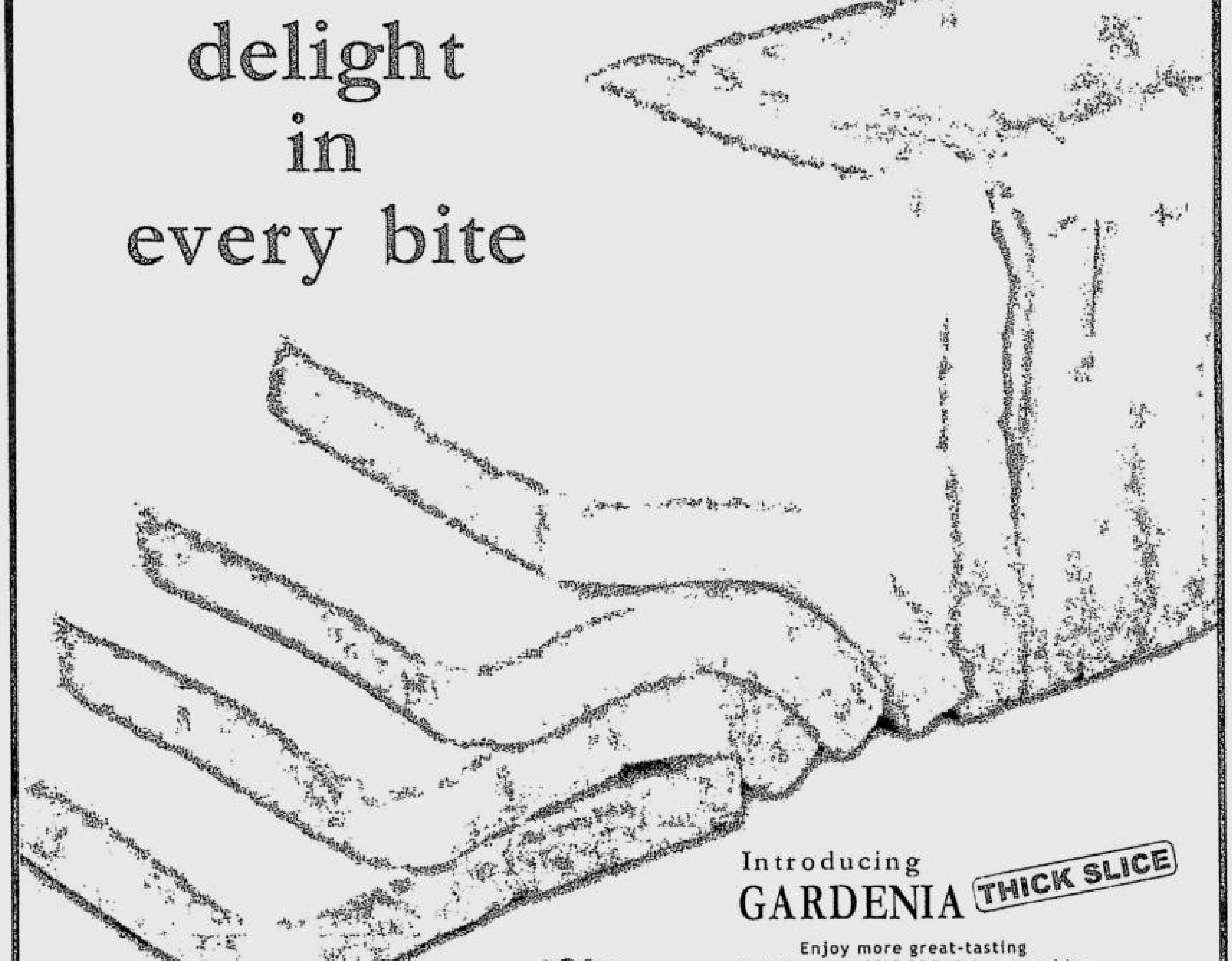

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BAMBOO GROVE. A sitting area is set before a picture window offering a view of bamboos. Rich and contrasting fabrics from Artemis and sundry accent pieces provide the area with texture and color.

Neophyte's expert skill in crafting space

A Makati house built around old furniture, accent pieces and gardens reflects the mistress' taste and savvy

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA
PHOTOS BY BOBOT MERU

WHILE some people build their houses around existing architectural pieces taken from old dwellings, the mistress of this two-story house in an exclusive village in Makati built hers around old furniture and accent pieces she and the family had accumulated during their travels here and abroad.

These are no ordinary pieces, mind you, but "structural" ones from all over Asia that were bound to clash if placed in the wrong house. The last thing she needed was an architect or an interior designer, to tell her what to do. What she needed was a "neutral" structure to display her diverse collections and satisfy her penchant for open spaces. Of course, it helped that her husband and their three young children share her love for the great outdoors.

"I did hire one [architect]," she clarifies, "but only to execute and check the structural soundness of my ideas."

The wife, who requested anonymity, is no frustrated architect. It's not only what you know, but also whom you know that counts. Apart from being well traveled, she drew ideas from books, magazines and friends in the industry. They enabled her to get the right styles and materials to realize her ideas—from the rich selection of furniture fabrics bought at Artemis to a pair of 18-ft-high glass panels by the stair landing.

"It also pays to befriend your suppliers," the wife says. Because of their unusual length, for instance, the glass panels she asked for were usually sold by the bulk only to building contractors. The best the supplier could give her were several pieces of glass cut in half.

"I didn't want to settle for anything less," she adds with a chuckle. "The poor fellow must have had enough. He gave in to my request in the end."

All the attempts at gentle persuasion would have gone for naught in the hands of a clueless soul. But this woman definitely knew what she wanted the minute she set out to build the family's dream home two years ago. She was at the site twice a day during the three months it took to construct it.

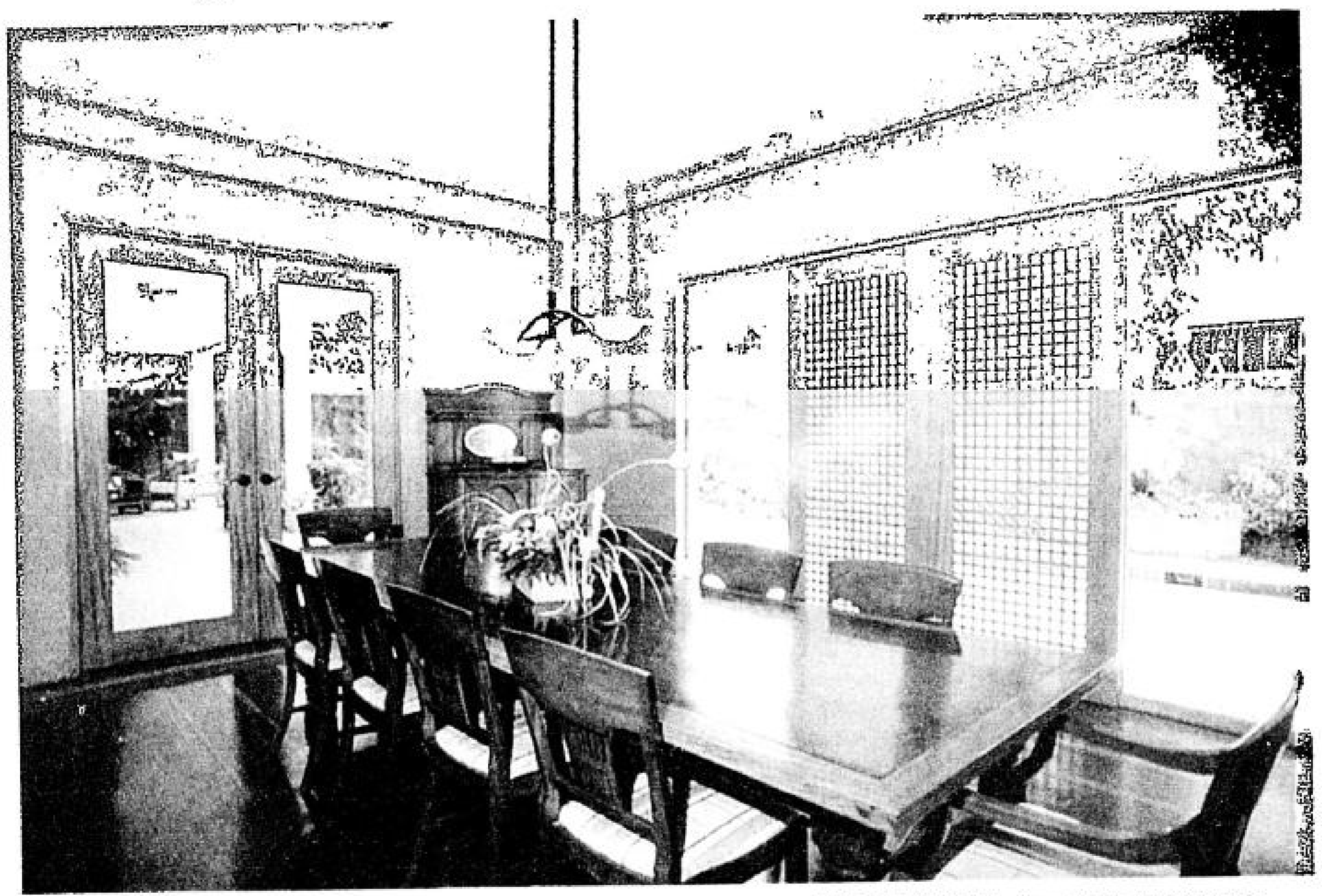
Hands-on

"I even chose the tiles and fixtures that went into this house," she says, while pointing to several faucets. "I'm sure some [workers] didn't welcome my constant presence, but that's okay. We were able to avoid costly mistakes, but more important it fostered cooperation and understanding between me and the contractor."

Fortunately, she enjoys the full support and trust of the husband when it comes to matters of the home. His only request was an adequate wine room for his wine collection. Well, he got his wish and more.

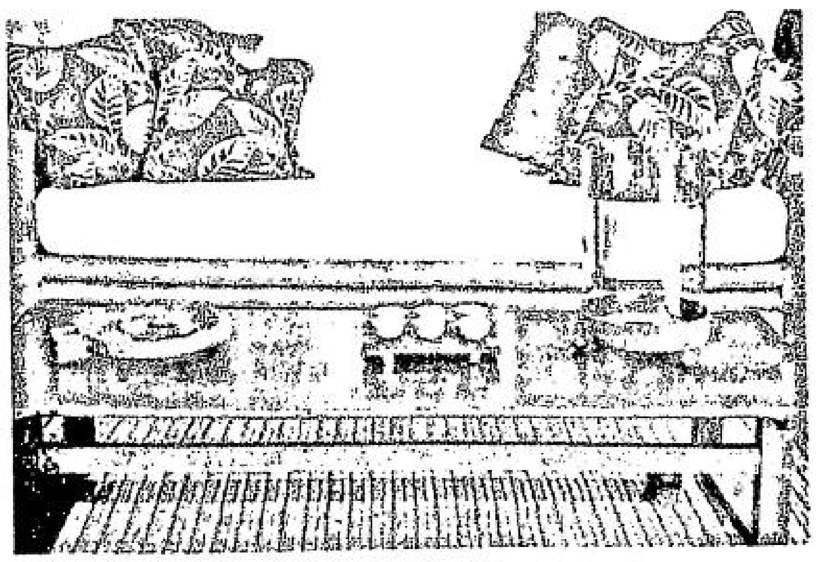
All her efforts seem to have paid off. The off-white structure appears unpretentious and nondescript from outside, but it is a totally different story once we pass through the main door, a custom-built, vintage-inspired piece fashioned from old *narra* panels and framed in darker *kamagong*, including the *jambas*.

NEOPHYTE'S/ p.E3

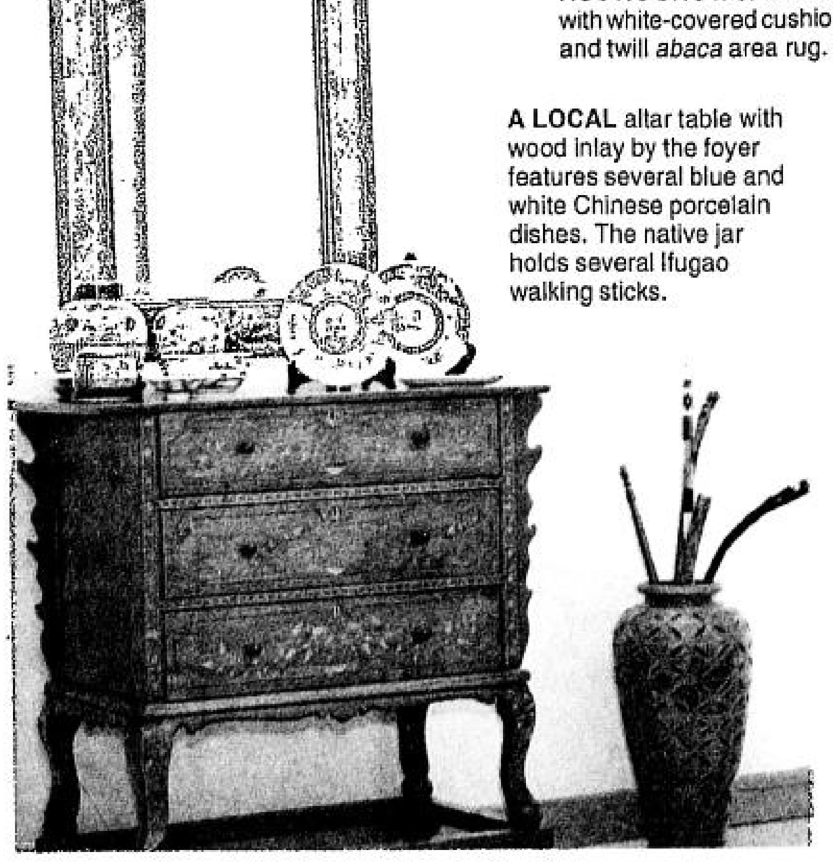


FINE DINING. The formal dining area with an extended wooden table made of *balayong* and framed in narra. White has given way to sage green walls and rich *narra* planks for the floor. Attempts to bring the outside in are still evident in the latticework, glass panels and double doors.

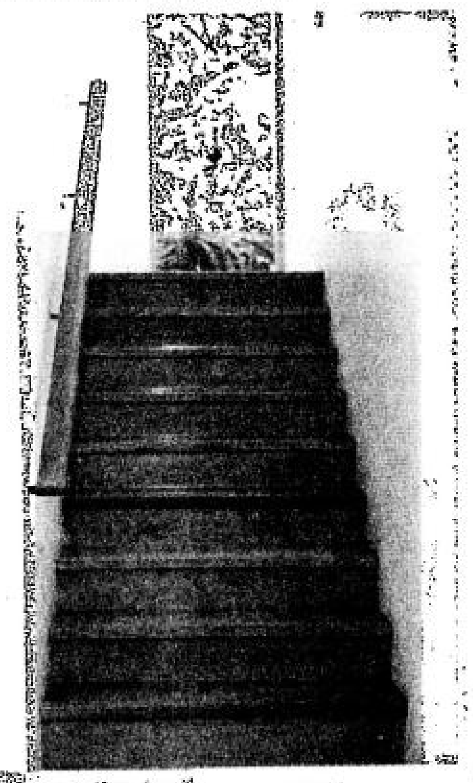
AN OLD Indian door by the lanai



RUSTIC SHOWCASE. Wooden coffee table and bamboo sofa by the lanai with white-covered cushions and throw pillows in *abaca* and Spanish fabrics, and twill *abaca* area rug.



A LOCAL altar table with wood inlay by the foyer features several blue and white Chinese porcelain dishes. The native jar holds several Ifugao walking sticks.



WOODEN steps leading to the second floor. Note a portion of one of the extended glass panels by the stair landing.

BATHROOM by the guestroom with a pair of big windows covered by Venetian blinds

Neophyte's expert skill in crafting space

(From page E2)

Interestingly, the doorway is sandwiched by a pair of frosted glass, which at night provides a stark contrast to the dark door. "The lights inside filter through the frosted glass," she says. "It's (door) actually one of my favorite pieces."

It is impossible not to look up once you step inside the foyer, a high-ceilinged area that goes all the way up to the second floor. A pair of walls near the ceiling have picture windows that allow natural light in. She wanted to leave them open to the elements, but she later changed her mind in favor of more practical glass sheets.

The airy living room is surrounded by picture windows as well, which provide a refreshing view of the lanai and garden beyond. A second sitting area is set before a bigger picture window that leads to a pocket garden of bamboo shoots. Several wooden lattice panels, which frame the glass windows or double as doors, provide an interesting contrast to the all-white walls.

"There's not a single iron grill in this house," she says. "They (latticework) resemble *capiz* windows without the *capiz*. Aside from breaking the monotony of the white walls, they go well with the Oriental pieces in the house."

Her prized furniture pieces include a huge coffee table made of strips of steel mounted on hardwood from India. It used to be an ox cart, she says, which probably explains its massive weight and appearance. Another coffee table, this time made of stained *molave*, features several wooden and brass accent pieces from the Philippines and Thailand.

Console table

Another favorite piece, a Chinese lacquer cabinet, doubles as a stereo and CD compartment. She converted a dining table made of *supa* to a console table by the living room featuring various prints, paintings and jewelry boxes. Several blue and white Chinese porcelain pieces are displayed on top of a Philippine-made altar table with wood inlay by the foyer. "These decorative pieces are a mix of the rural and the tribal," she says.

Indeed, the floor area near the two beams are equipped with a pair of pin lights each trained at a wooden plough and a rustic guitar from Palawan. Native baskets, drums, a *sungkaan* and a vibrant piece of *malong* turned into a wall hanging add to the ethnic feel. With all that hue and texture, no wonder she chose white walls and clean, simple lines.

Except for the red Persian carpet, the entire living room floor is covered in off-white Spanish tiles. The same material extends to the lanai to give the entire ground floor a sense of continuity. A series of recessed ceilings in straight lines bolster the area's simplicity.

"They (the ceilings) may look simple, but I had a hard time figuring them out," she says. "I didn't want to settle for a flat ceiling because it would look low and boring, but I just couldn't have something built that was aesthetically and structurally off."

The beauty of knowing where to put her furniture pieces is best illustrated in the Chinese lacquer cabinet and the dining-room table. The former, for instance, fits in nicely between the two picture windows by the living room.

The table, which can sit up to 12, is perfect in the dining room. The extended piece is made of *balayong* and framed in *narra*. Each wooden chair is upholstered in plaid fabric that matches the sage green walls and contrasts with the rich *narra* floor. Yes, the wife chose to depart from white walls and floors this time.

Still, her attempts to bring the outside in is very much evident in the dining room. Glass panels and latticework offer a view of the swimming pool, while a double door made of glass and framed by wood lead to the lanai.

Color

"I felt some parts of the house also needed some color," she reasons. "The *pintor* and I had to mix various shades of paint for hours until we came up with the right kind of green." The process was repeated in the guestroom. Part of the wall became a canvas of sorts where she painted various combinations of terra cotta and cinnamon until she finally achieved a warm shade of orange (or is that red?).

The high-ceilinged kitchen reverts to neutral shades in slate and off-white. Granite-finished countertops and bleached wood make up the kitchen cabinets. Diagonal-patterned tiles alternate with plain ones to form a toned-down version of a checkerboard floor. She also chose the same plain tiles on the wall, never mind if the contractor initially disagreed with her.

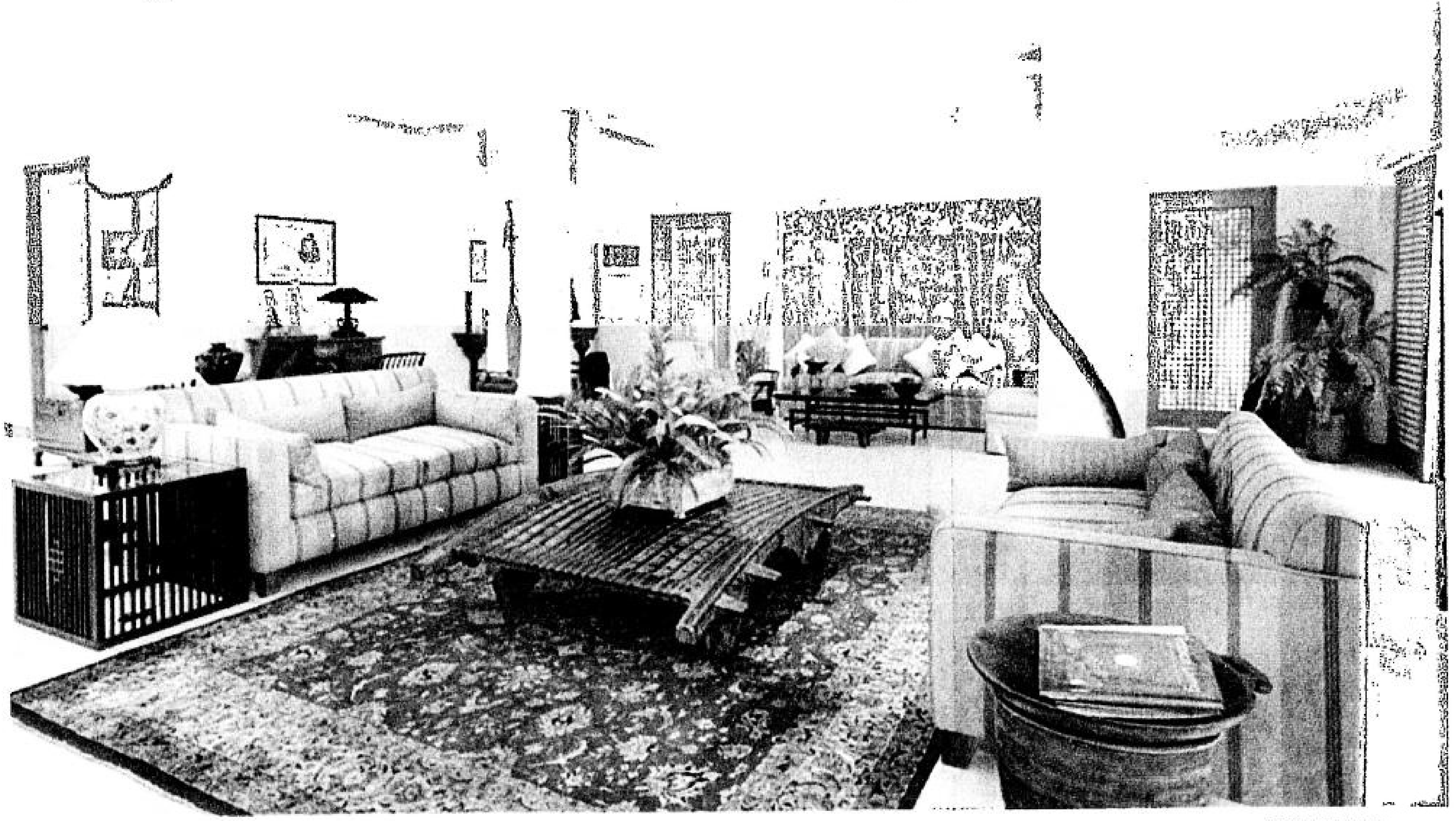
"The floor tiles, he said, were too heavy to go on the walls," the wife recalls. "But I love these tiles. In fact, they were the first items I bought for the house in one of those sales."

Another noticeable element is the presence of plants inside and outside the house. The Indian coffee table, for instance, holds several potted bromeliads arranged in a wooden box. Smaller varieties of bromeliads adorn the side of an armchair, while several potted ferns are placed on top of a pair of molave planters.

"Plants really make a room complete," she says, as if her various eclectic pieces weren't enough. "I can't imagine a room without them."

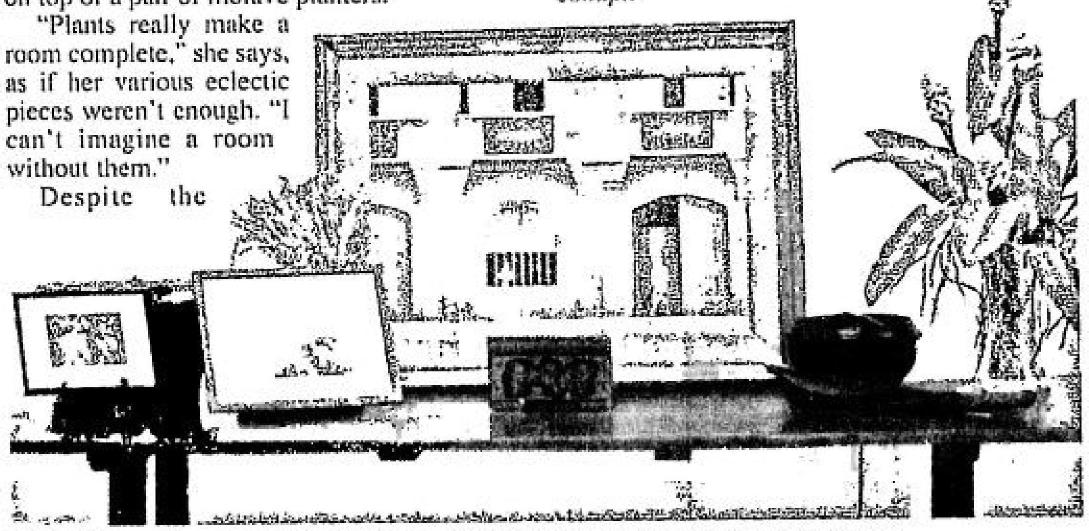
Despite the services of a gardener, the wife personally oversees her garden awash in greenery and bursting with various blooms. Thanks to several plant boxes, lavender vines greet her and the hubby from every picture window of the master bedroom each morning. Of course, the couple had to work around the plants, too.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



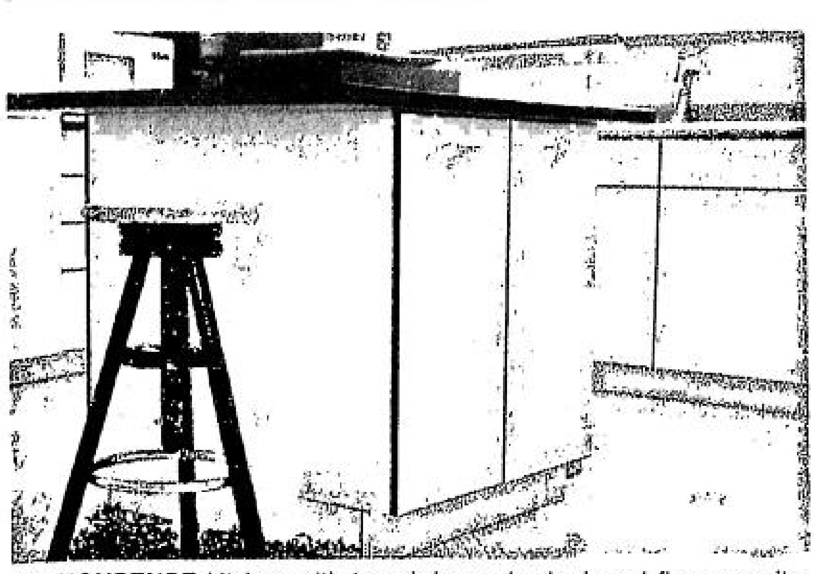
BRIGHT AND BREEZY. An overall view of the living room featuring an Indian coffee table, sofas upholstered in identical fabrics and various Oriental accent pieces. Note the interesting series of ceilings and latticework that double as doors to the garden. The area is all white save for the red Persian rug.

VINTAGE-INSPIRED main door made from *narra* panels and *kamagong* frame

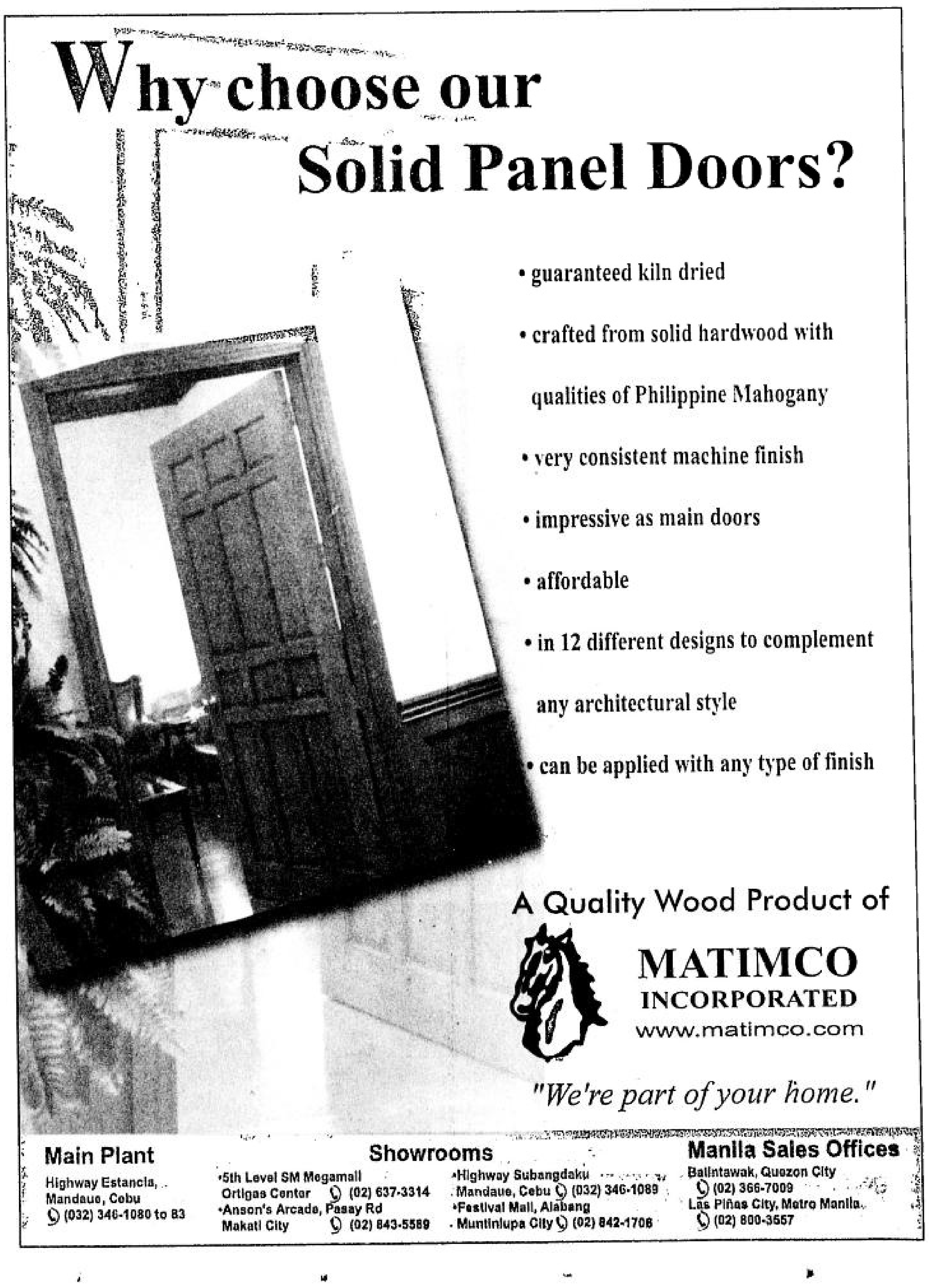


DINING turned console table features various prints, paintings and jewelry boxes.

SUNSET RED. All the rooms upstairs are done in white expect for this guestroom downstairs. The wife experimented with dozens of combinations of terra cotta and cinnamon to come up with this shade. The huge picture window is draped with black and beige curtain.



NO-NONSENSE kitchen with toned-down checkerboard floor, granite-finished countertops and bleached wood cabinets



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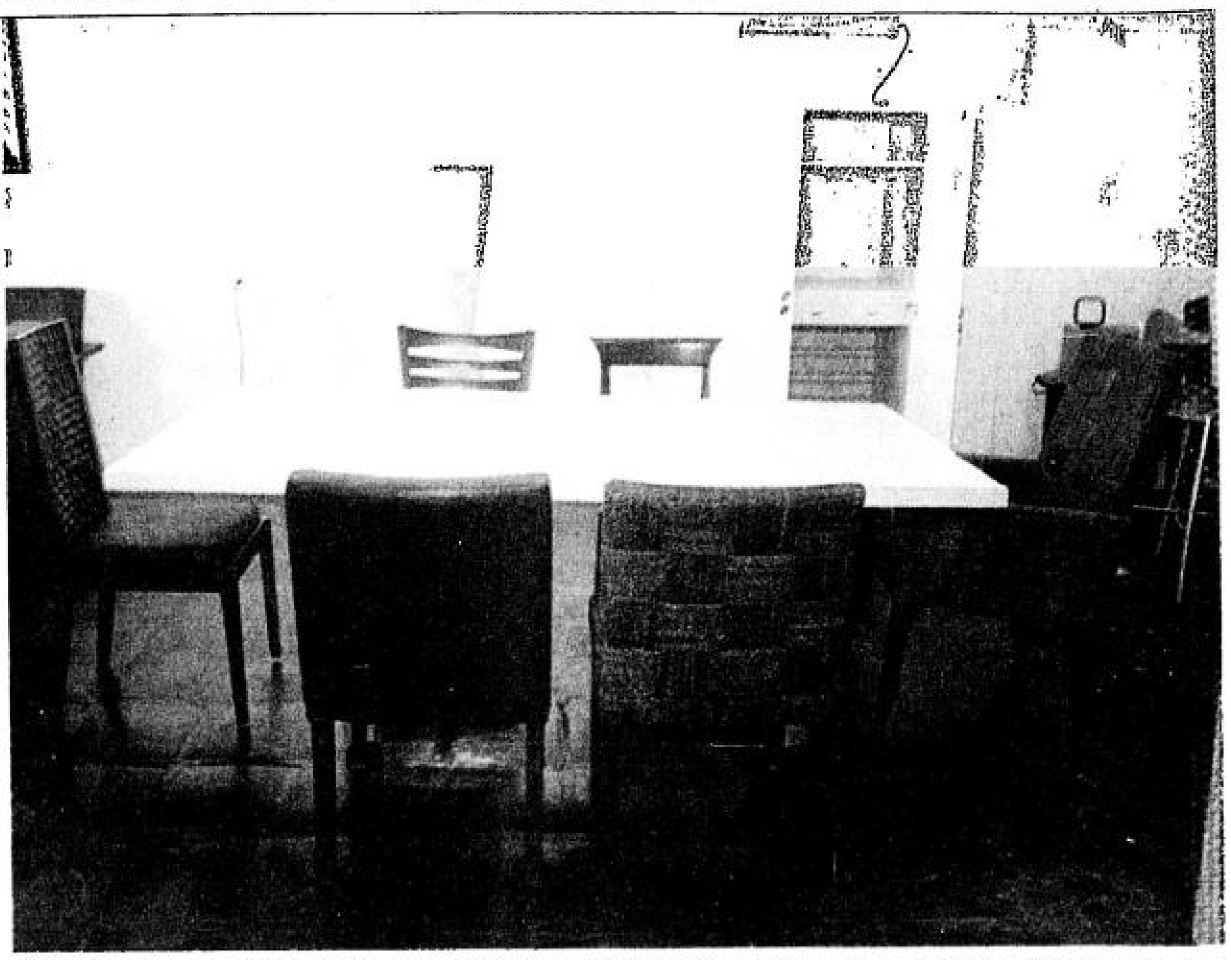
LIVING ROOM SET. La Padua features ellipse chairs. Peanut-shaped bowl on table.



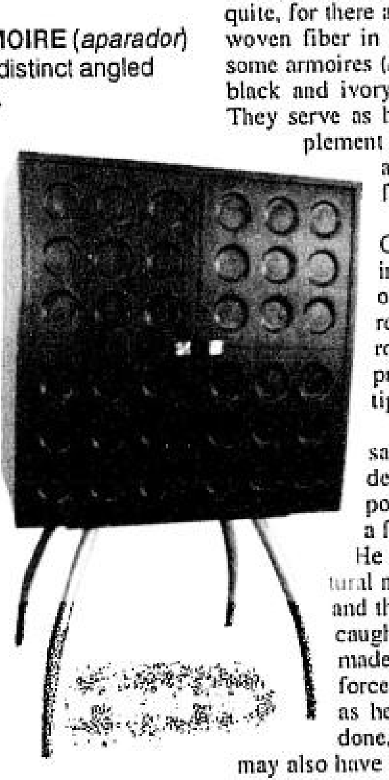
DINING table has stainless steel base and chairs of eclectic persuasions—low, high-back, carved, plain, with wood and fiber or fabric upholstery.

World-class Filipino furniture comes black and bleached

BY DORIS G. NUYDA
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

OVER AT 1171 A. Mabini St. in Ermita, Manila, there is a shop tucked among other shop fronts in the area. This is the Padua International Furniture whose display window beckons with an array of unusual furniture pieces.

The pieces are made of wood that may stand alone or in combination with other materials. But what catches the eye are the strong, clean lines of each piece that seem to reflect minimalism, but not quite, for there are obvious touches of whimsy, like woven fiber in the upholstery and mat weave for some armoires (*aparadors*). The dominant colors—black and ivory—evoke severity, but it's not so. They serve as backdrops for other colors to complement them. And black and bleached ivory are colors now much in demand in foreign markets.

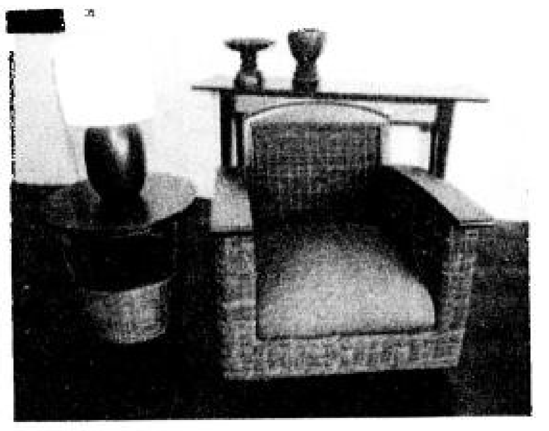


ARMOIRE (*aparador*) has distinct angled look.

Vincent O. Padua, president and CEO of the furniture company bearing his name, says 90 percent of its output goes to export, which is one reason he maintains only one showroom. Besides, the bulk of finished products are in the factory site in Antipolo.

Padua was into antiques before he saw the possibilities of a business dealing in Philippine-made contemporary furniture. So in 1998, he opened a factory in Antipolo.

He learned early on that wood and natural materials were a unique combination, and this seems, indeed, to be so, for it has caught the attention of foreign buyers and made Filipino manufacturers a world-class force. "We are often imitated," says Padua as he ticks off the various ways this is done, especially by Asian competitors who may also have the same raw materials. Padua, incidentally, is a member of the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Phils. (CFIP) which participates in at least three shows a year, international and local, including the one that opens at the Megamall today (May 25).



UPHOLSTERY for this mahogany lounge chair called Maria uses *abaca*. Round side table of same material holds lamp with acrylic shade.

THIS bedroom set features hand-carved mahogany headboard with matching night table and lamp.

What the Filipino has, says Padua, which cannot be imitated, is his gift of innovation. Add this to his creative talents, which he applies to his designs, and it is easy to understand why, in trade fairs and shows abroad, the Filipinos stand out. Padua says this without blinking or false humility. The facts, he believes, speak for themselves.

Eclecticism

The wood used for his furniture pieces is basically mahogany, largely sourced from industrial tree plantations in Mindanao, with some importations. This explains why most of his lines are dark-colored. To offset this, he bleaches some pieces so that one encounters, say, a dining set, with both dark and light-colored chairs.

The use of two colors for one set is part of the eclecticism Padua favors. So it is not unusual to see the chairs of a dining set come in different designs. One may have a high back, another short. One may be upholstered in *abaca* weave fabric, another may combine wood with bamboo or with leather (cowhide), or with stainless steel, or with banana fiber. The possibilities are endless for Padua.

A big attraction at the Mabini showroom are the giant mahogany floor lamps (the tallest is 7 ft) with acrylic shades that simulate *capiz*. There are smaller lamps, of course, and matching stands hollowed out to hold planters.

FLOOR lamps have mahogany base and acrylic shades and come as tall as 7 ft. Shades simulate *capiz*. Shown with them are matching planters.

Carving is used for some of Padua's furniture designs, following the tradition of Filipino furniture makers. The carvings are found on chair backs or headboards, even on seat bottoms. These are not floral or curlicue carvings, but rather, linear incisions that produce a clean, artful, textured look.

Much of it is handcrafted, but as his products are high-end, he does not have to go into mass production, and so they are almost custom-made.

He gives credit to their beautiful look to Vi Padilla, a Filipino designer based in the United States, who trained and worked abroad, and has won several awards in international fairs.

The government sees the economic potential of the industry and has provided incentives along the way. One of this is the Common Bonded Warehouse, which facilitates the importation of wood in the manufacture of products which, in turn, will be exported.

Padua says his furniture is bought by foreign buyers who show them in international fairs. What is more heartening is the current trend that finds him dealing increasingly more with foreign wholesalers rather than retailers.

The beauty of it all, Padua points out, is that the basic wood—mahogany—and fluidity of lines make it easy to mix and match. It is possible, he says, to select pieces from one line to add to another to create an eclectic, elegant set. What's more, the agelessness of the designs may one day turn the furniture into heirloom pieces.

Colors that bring out the character of a house

"A HOUSE should unfold before you, greeting you with new layers of experience as you move from room to room. It should induce calm yet enrich the senses." With these words, interior designer Tina Periquet describes the new model unit she designed for Ferndale Homes, a cluster of Mediterranean-inspired houses developed jointly by Ayala Land Inc. and Fern Realty Corp.

Among the dominant architectural features were arches on the windows and the front room entryway, the ornamental timber molding on the stair stringer, and the conventional doorframes.

Textures

The house interiors were conceived as a series of full-color regions linked by a large flowing space in a warm, light neutral shade. Leaf green walls in the front room coexist harmoniously with the deep russet tones of the dining room, their union mediated by the calming parchment finish of the living room in between. The parchment finish extends upstairs to the bedroom passage, which opens into rooms washed in pale gold, terra cotta and periwinkle blue.

Textures tease the senses, inviting you to stroke and feel. Patinated surfaces show the gentle touch of time on everyday objects, affirming the enriching quality of age. Colors delight the eye, enveloping each space with emotion. "It's time to reintroduce color as a major design element. Living and working in an urban environment, you sometimes develop a thirst for saturated color and the deeply satisfying sensory experience it gives. Where else but in your own living space can you indulge your senses and your extremely personal taste?"

She encourages an adventurous spirit when mixing colors as long as they are unified in tone. Each color has brown undertones while pastels have a white tint. In the model unit, colors are taken from nature: Herbs, spices, fruit and clay. The paint is sponged on over a tinted base coat. "Sponge painting gives you a sense of old-fashioned craftsmanship—the hand working the paint—which is absent in the crisp perfection of a regular painted wall."

Her insistence on an uneven, variegated surface reminiscent of pigmented plaster initially had her at loggerheads with the painters, who stubbornly resisted what seemed to be an untidy and amateurish effect.

Spaces

The living room has a high-ceiling; its large, tall windows hung with cinnabar drapes that fall straight on both sides, creating strong vertical lines that carry the eye upward. A lively *batik* fabric hung high on an upper wall, and an ornate wrought-iron pendant fixture crowning the space further dramatize the room's height. A wide armless sofa upholstered in a ribbed corn-yellow fabric is pushed up against the window.

Instead of the usual coffee table, she placed small tables near each seat, allowing a good view of the lovely Oriental rug. "You don't really need a large coffee table just to put your drinks on. The small end tables can do the job just as well."

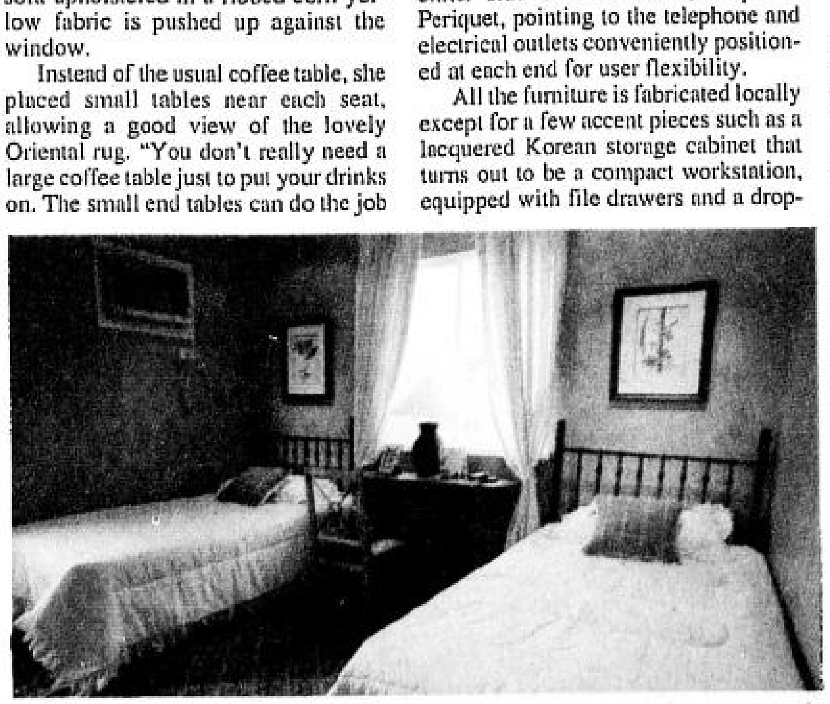
To set off the dining area from the two-story living room while concealing a structural beam, an archway was built into the dining room entryway. As the new arch echoes the form of the front room entrance, it is difficult to tell that anything was added on. Lighted niches punctuate the new walls, adding display space for interesting objects while serving as accent lighting.

Furnishing

Built-in storage is everywhere: Shelving niches flank the wide window in the dining room, replacing the usual china cabinet. Windowsills were extended to accommodate flowerpots and picture frames; a wall in the study is lined with adjustable shelves, with a work counter and clever pull-out shelves for computer keyboards.

"You can actually choose to work at either side of the counter," explains Periquet, pointing to the telephone and electrical outlets conveniently positioned at each end for user flexibility.

All the furniture is fabricated locally except for a few accent pieces such as a lacquered Korean storage cabinet that turns out to be a compact workstation, equipped with file drawers and a drop-leaf writing shelf. A *kamagong* altar table serves as a console; a set of Indonesian gongs and a pair of bronze candlesticks from Thailand ornament the living room. Hand-knotted carpets from Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan splash the tiled floors with vivid color and pattern. A sleigh bed with a carved foliage pattern, wrought-iron headboards and Spanish-style pendant lights pay tribute to the Western influence on Filipino design.



THE HOUSE makes use of strong colors and contours, varied textures and accent lighting.

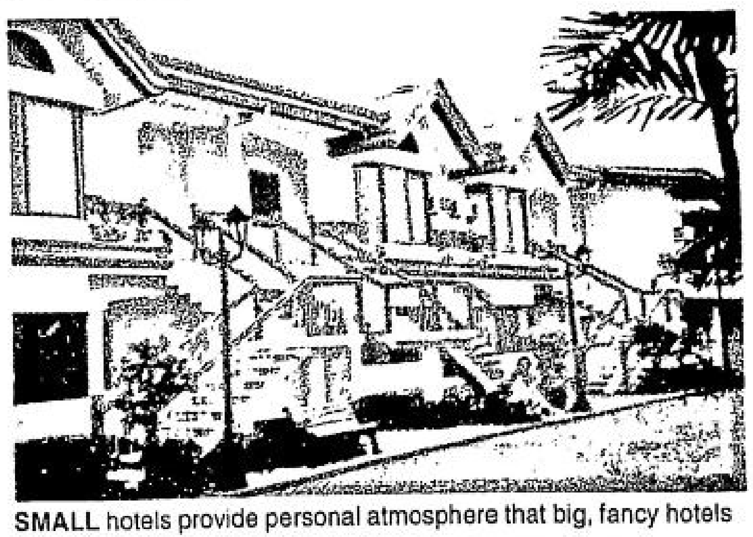
For Ferndale Homes, she chose to use a combination of lensed compact fluorescence for diffuse ambient lighting, halogens for accent lighting and decorative pendants and shade lamps for ornamental and task lighting. She advised against using halogens for ambient lighting as they are only slightly more energy-efficient than incandescent.

Lighting

"Halogens are unbeatable for focal lighting because they render color best and give precise control over angle and beam spread, but they generate heat and burn up electricity. Compact fluorescent is four or five times as efficient and long-lasting, and give about five times as much light for the same wattage, but they spread light everywhere and can't be focused. They are perfect for bathrooms, kitchens, stair halls and work areas.

"Just remember to specify warm white, not 'daylight' or 'cool,' or you get a stark white clinic or office look. Try replacing the bulb in a table lamp with a screw-in warm-white compact fluorescent. Most people won't be able to tell the difference," she advises.

Periquet is one of the top interior designers tapped by Ayala Land Inc. for Ferndale Homes, a residential project in Quezon City hailed as an enlightened example of planned community living. It offers several models and lot sizes, as well as first-class amenities including a clubhouse, swimming pool, basketball court, play area and jogging paths.



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Thanks to the untiring efforts of the Philippine Motor Association, our road signs today observe the international standard set by the UN Conference on Road Traffic. Since its inception in 1931, PMA has been in the forefront of improving the country's traffic condition through the education of motorists and pedestrians. Since then, PMA has committed itself in the service of its members and the motoring public.

Having reached 70 years is indeed a great achievement for the association. "The PMA has been able to anticipate and provide the needs of its members so it has been able to maintain membership growth. Our existence lies on the belief of our members in the objectives that the association strives to achieve for the benefit of the motoring public," explains architect Carlos Arguelles, PMA president.

A non-stock, non-profit service organization, the PMA was created to promote the following: motor sports, the enactment of laws on the use of motor vehicles, the construction of good and safe roads, the practice of road courtesy and safety, the development of tourism, motor vehicle insurance, and the rights and privileges of all motorists for better and safer motoring.

> PMA has been able to anticipate and provide for the needs of its members, and believes that it must continuously strive in achieving its objectives for the benefit of the whole motoring public

ROGER CARPIO

FORMIDABLE TEAM. For 70 years, PMA has been in the forefront of improving the state of motor industry. To accomplish such a formidable task, the people behind PMA are continuously looking for ways to improve its services and at the same time identify new trends and developments in the industry. Standing from left are board of directors Juan B. Angeles, Gen. Angel Kanapi, Ronald Reidenbach, Delfin Justiniano, (seated from left) Antonio Mapa, vice president; architect Carlos Arguelles, president; lawyer Nestor Mejia, corporate secretary.

The PMA is affiliated with two world touring and automobile federations, the Geneva- (Switzerland) based Alliance Internationale de Tourisme (AIT) and the Paris-based Federation Internationale de l' Automobile (FIA). Both federations participate with the United Nations and the Council of Europe with which they have consultative status. These world federations are recognized by the European Union, the European Conference of Ministers of Transport and the World Tourism Organization and have preferential status with these organizations at which they represent motorists and tourists the world over. They work through specialized commissions which deal with traffic, road safety, technical subjects, the environment, tourism, open air activities and legal matters.

As an affiliate of the FIA, the PMA is authorized to issue racing drivers' licenses and to impart the FIA's competition rules to motor sports enthusiasts. As a result of the PMA's affiliation with AIT and FIA, PMA members can avail of the services of motor clubs abroad, such as technical consultation if a PMA member is involved in an accident, touring advice and assistance, and roadside service in case of a car breakdown.

National heritage

The PMA could be considered a part of national heritage. Founded by an elite group of motoring enthusiasts at the former Manila headquarters of the American Chamber of Commerce on May 25, 1931, the PMA was born at the time when the country was still a territory of the United States. Distinguished citizens such as

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24-hour emergency services

THE following services can be availed if you are a member of PMA:

Emergency Roadside Services

The PMA takes pride in offering its members its 24-hour towing service. With a total of nine tow trucks, including two flat bed (car carrier) trucks in operation, the Emergency Roadside Service (ERS) is offered to PMA members for free (within Metro Manila only).

If your vehicle does not require towing, the ERS team can also do basic automotive services to get you on the move again such as battery charging, fixing fan belt, starting a car, replacing flat tire, and others.

Emergency Medical Service

Medical emergencies can happen any time and the faster response time, the better. That is why PMA created the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) for its members. Members needing professional emergency medical attention and quick access to medical facilities can avail of the EMS for only a minimal fee.

Five ambulances (three 911-type and two Japanese-made) are equipped with necessary devices for the initial treatment and patients and aptly stocked with medical supplies. These ambulances are manned by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) trained by US Paramedics that are ready to respond 24-hours a day to situations from transport of patients to application of basic life support. Medical doctors are also on call in emergency situations.

Rescue service

In situations like storms, earthquakes, floods and other catastrophes that might endanger lives, PMA can dispatch a rescue van. Fully equipped with a power generator, a chain saw, several extraction devices (e.g. metal cutters, windshield punchers, etc.), a trauma box, a stretcher, and an air jack, the PMA Rescue Van is able to provide the response necessary to remove victims from danger.

Accident Investigation Assistance

Got involved in a vehicular accident with no investigator around? Call PMA and we send one for you.

The PMA Accident Investigation Assistance is provided for members involved in vehicular accidents. Expert accident investigators are on call 24-hours a day to help in drafting accident reports and assist in insurance claims.

24-HOUR/ E7

Stronger at 70

(From page E5)

General Carlos P. Romulo, Manuel Elizalde, Antonio Brias, Albino Cycip and former Executive Secretary Jorge B. Vargas were among its incorporators.

Vargas, who served the PMA as chair and president from 1931 to 1937 was succeeded by Benito Legarda (1937-1973), Dr. Manuel Lim (1973-1981), Juan Tuazon (1981-1982), lawyer Conrado Ayuyao (1982-1999) and Architect Carlos D. Arguelles (2000 to the present).

After World War II, Benito Legarda, then chair of the board and president of the association, led the reactivation of PMA. It subsequently organized a Ladies' Chapter and conducted an annual traffic safety poster contest that attracted nationwide participation and promoted safety consciousness among young drivers.

During the administration of President Elpidio Quirino, the PMA was officially designated as the country's National Auto Club, with authority to issue international customs passes for motor vehicles and international driving permits as provided for in the 1949 United Nations Convention on Road Traffic.

In 1977, the PMA hosted the AIT's Congress on Leisure and Touring in Manila. This prompted then President Ferdinand Marcos to proclaim the week of the AIT Congress as "International Touring Alliance Week."

Another milestone was set in April 1983, when PMA inaugurated its own office building at Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City (tel. nos. 723-0808 to 18). Designed by noted architect and former PMA director (now PMA president) Arguelles, the PMA building serves as the venue for its monthly board meetings and the administration of documentary assistance to members, such motor vehicle registration, car insurance renewals, the issuance of international driving permits, and arrangements for international reciprocity for those traveling abroad.

With another office set up at T.M. Kalaw in Manila, PMA sees the need for more offices to better serve its growing membership. The PMA set up another one in Cebu City located at 0896 Cong. M. A. Zosa St., Barangay Capitol Site (tel. nos. 253-9375 and 548-77). A new branch office is now under consideration in Cagayan de Oro which PMA intends to inaugurate this year.

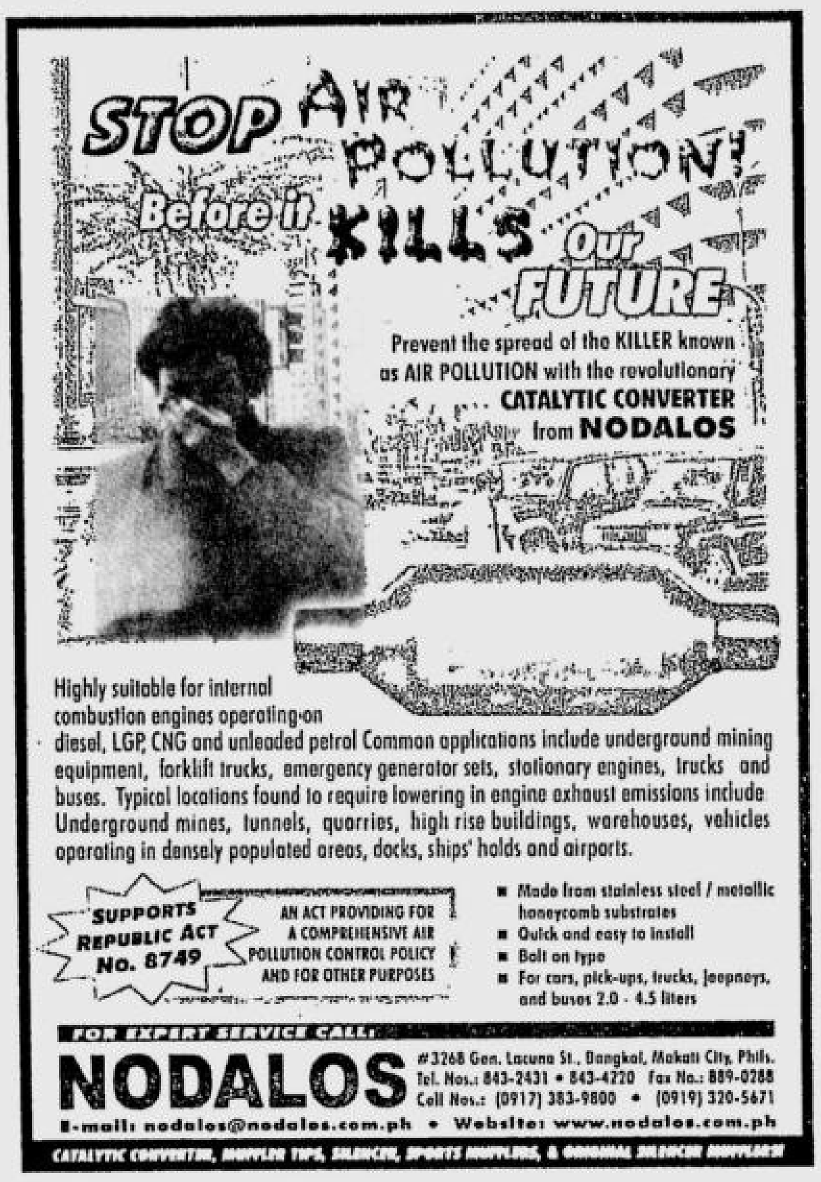
Aware that travel has great educational, economic and social value, the PMA has, since its inception, encouraged and cooperated with government authorities in making the country's roads and highways safer. Not only in terms of engineering and adequate traffic signs, The PMA has lobbied for the protection of motorists from dangerous elements and in the formulation of a viable traffic regulation program.

PMA has a proficient medical team always ready for any emergency calls.

Various activities

PMA is also engaged in several socio-civic programs of the government and other NGO's like:

- Government assistance—the government has continued to ask PMA through the Bureau of Customs to help in the disposal of vehicles confiscated by the bureau. These cars are prepared by PMA and auctioned off. PMA has helped in acquiring revenue of more than P200 million for the government in this manner. PMA has also executed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Local Government, agreeing to lend its personnel and equipment to the government for use during calamities.
- Trafimm--created under the Ramos Administration, Traffic Improvement and Management aims to find solutions in the worsening traffic in Metro Manila by focusing on the 3Es of traffic management: Education, Enforcement and Engineering. PMA was at one time the co-chair of the organization and was head of the Traffic Education Committee.
- Road Maintenance Board of the Department of Public Works and Highways—upon approval of the Road User's Tax Law, the PMA was invited to become a member of the board that was set up to manage the Road Maintenance Fund. The PMA was also represented in the Better Roads Philippines of the DWPH.
- Campaign for clean air—PMA has been attending workshops and forums on the international campaign for clean air. This Asian Development Bank-sponsored program aims at promoting clean air. The PMA is also a member of the Concerned Citizens Against Pollution. Last year, PMA was one of the information hotlines for the compatibility of Metro Manila vehicles to the phase-out of leaded gasoline.
- Philippine Tourism Highway Committee—the Department of Tourism conducts consultation meetings with the different concerned sectors including the PMA on how to rehabilitate and maintain the Philippine Tourism (Maharlika) Highway in order to utilize it for the promotion of tourism.
- Maxx Menthol Candy Campaign—the aim of the program is to impart the importance of discipline whether you are a driver, pedestrian or commuter. The PMA has assisted Unilever, the manufacturer of Maxx product, in formulating their advertising campaign in terms of providing the necessary traffic-related tips.
- Operation Motorist Assistance is a yearly project of the PMA designed with other like-minded organization to assist motorists needing help while on their trek towards outlying provinces during Holy Week. This project extends as far north as Pangasinan and as far south as Batangas, Laguna and Cavite. *Charles E. Buban*



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- Mr. Johnny Angeles, Executive Director
Philippine Motorist Association (PMA)

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PMA: the national auto club

BY virtue of its affiliation with the Federation International de L' Automobile (FIA), the PMA has been vested the title of "national sporting authority" in the Philippines. This means any person or club interested in any branch of motor sports, may avail FIA guidance as well as other useful information only at the PMA.

On Sept. 14, 1971, racing driving licenses were issued for the first time. Racing legends Pocholo Ramirez, Chito Monserat, Yu Beng Tok and Dante Silverio include the country's first group of successful applicants.

Holders of these licenses must be acquainted with the Competition Rules of the FAI before participating in any competition or attempting at record governed by the rules accepted by FIA.

But even before this major achievement, then president Elpidio Quirino has already named PMA "The National Auto Club" in the Philippines. This was when the country was looking for a body who would undertake the issuance of international customs pass for motor vehicles ("Carnets de Passage en Douanne" also known as *triptyques*) and international driving permits as contemplated in the 1949 United Nations Convention on Road Traffic of which the Philippines is one of the signatory.

The PMA was the clear choice.

However, not a single Carnets was issued up until today. Obviously, our motorist travelling abroad prefers not to apply for such document for reason of convenience. Our drivers would rather rent or buy (and later sell them) a car abroad. Much more, our drivers would rather avoid paying exorbitant price of having their cars shipped from the Philippines and then shipped them back here on their return trips.

Much more, whenever a car covered by the Carnet is shipped to the Philippines, the local customs authorities require a written guarantee from PMA that all customs and other import charges on the car covered by the Carnet will be paid if it will not be shipped from the Philippines within the period of validity of the Carnet which is one year from the date of issue.

APPLICATION FORM

NAME ______ DATE ______
BIRTHDAY ______ BIRTHPLACE ______
NATIONALITY ______ SEX ______ CIVIL STATUS ______
RES. ADDRESS ______ TEL. No. ______
______ FAX No. ______
BUS. ADDRESS ______ TEL. No. ______
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT ______ PROFESSION ______
1st CAR ______
CAR MAKE CAR MODEL YEAR PLATE No
2nd CAR ______
CAR MAKE CAR MODEL YEAR PLATE No
MEMBERSHIP FEE OF P650.00 FOR 1 OR 2 CARS CASH ( ) CHECK ( ) IS ATTACHED
SPONSOR ______

FOR OFFICIAL USE
ENROLLMENT DATE ______ DATE PAID ______
PMA I.D. No ______ AMOUNT PAID ______
INSURANCE No. ______ O.R. No ______
______ APPLICANTS SIGNATURE

INTERESTED members may fill up this form and mail to PMA.

24-hour emergency services (From page E6)

Philippine International Driving Permit (PIDP)

Going abroad? Make sure you bring your international driver's license.

The PMA is the only auto club in the country that is duly authorized to issue the PIDP. This one-year permit allows the licensee to drive in almost all countries around the world (except communist and non-Alliance internationale de Tourisme-affiliate countries). All those who avail of PIDP automatically become members of PMA.

Vehicle Registration Assistance

To assist its members in the annual renewal of motor vehicle registration, the PMA has tied up with the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to provide this special service.

Instead of going to the LTO offices, members can bring their vehicles to the PMA main office and it will take care of vehicle registration. Just remember to bring the required documents.

Insurance assistance

In recognizing the need of its members to avail insurance for their vehicles, PMA Insurance Department provides its members with assistance in purchasing vehicle insurance that can be availed along with the renewal of their motor vehicle registration. The PMA has employed the services of the Jardine-Aboitiz Insurance Brokers to give its members choices on where to have their cars insured.

PMA Training Center

The PMA has set up a training center that is dedicated to providing quality driver's education to its students. The center has eight qualified training instructors and eight training cars to fulfill this task.

Several driving courses are available depending on what driving skills you already have and still want to learn. All of which includes several one-hour driving sessions (depending on the course) and two classroom seminars on Motor Vehicle Operation and Defensive Driving.

Value Added Services

Apart from the above-mentioned services, PMA also provides its members the following:

- **Security Glass Etching Service.** One way of deterring auto theft is the process of glass etching which is offered to all its members, free of charge. Through etching, the windshields are inscribed with identifying marks that can be traced to the owners, so in case your vehicles do get stolen, you will have an easier time identifying it. Just visit the main office to avail of this service.
- **Auto Care Services.** The PMA Auto Care Service Center is located at the PMA main office. Its auto mechanics are qualified and skilled in performing minor repair and maintenance on automobile at a very minimal cost.
- **Motor sports and racing licenses.** The Philippine National Championship events are promoted and administered by the PMA and organized in association with its affiliates: Sports Values Inc. (SVI), Batangas Racing Circuit (BRC), Activity Asia Association (AAA), Road and Rally Management Corp. (RRMC), Race Motor Sports Club (RMSC) and the Philippine Drag Racing Federation (PDRF).

The PMA is also the issuing body of Racing Licenses in the country. Interested drivers who want to compete in PMA-sanctioned races must secure a racing license from the PMA office.

- **Traffic Desk.** The PMA representing the private sector in the Presidential Task Force on Traffic Management and Improvement (Trafimm), has established the Traffic Desk for motorists and other road users to lodge their complaints and observations about traffic in Metro Manila. The PMA is in close contact with the different government agencies and other private establishments involved in the formulation of efficient solutions to our traffic problem.

Members calling the Traffic Desk are most welcome in airing their views in traffic-related matters and will be put to the attention of concerned agencies and personalities.

- **Touring Services.** Travelling by land is quite pleasurable, if all the hassles are removed. That is why the PMA Touring Department was established.

The Touring Department provides members with pertinent information on the destinations that members want to go to, from how to get there to what to find there when they arrive there. Information on road conditions, accommodations, attractions and other support facilities can be inquired in a single phone call.

The PMA Touring Department also conducts yearly caravan tours to different destinations around Luzon. For those members who want to do inter-island travel or go abroad, PMA can also assist them in booking reservations other travel arrangements.

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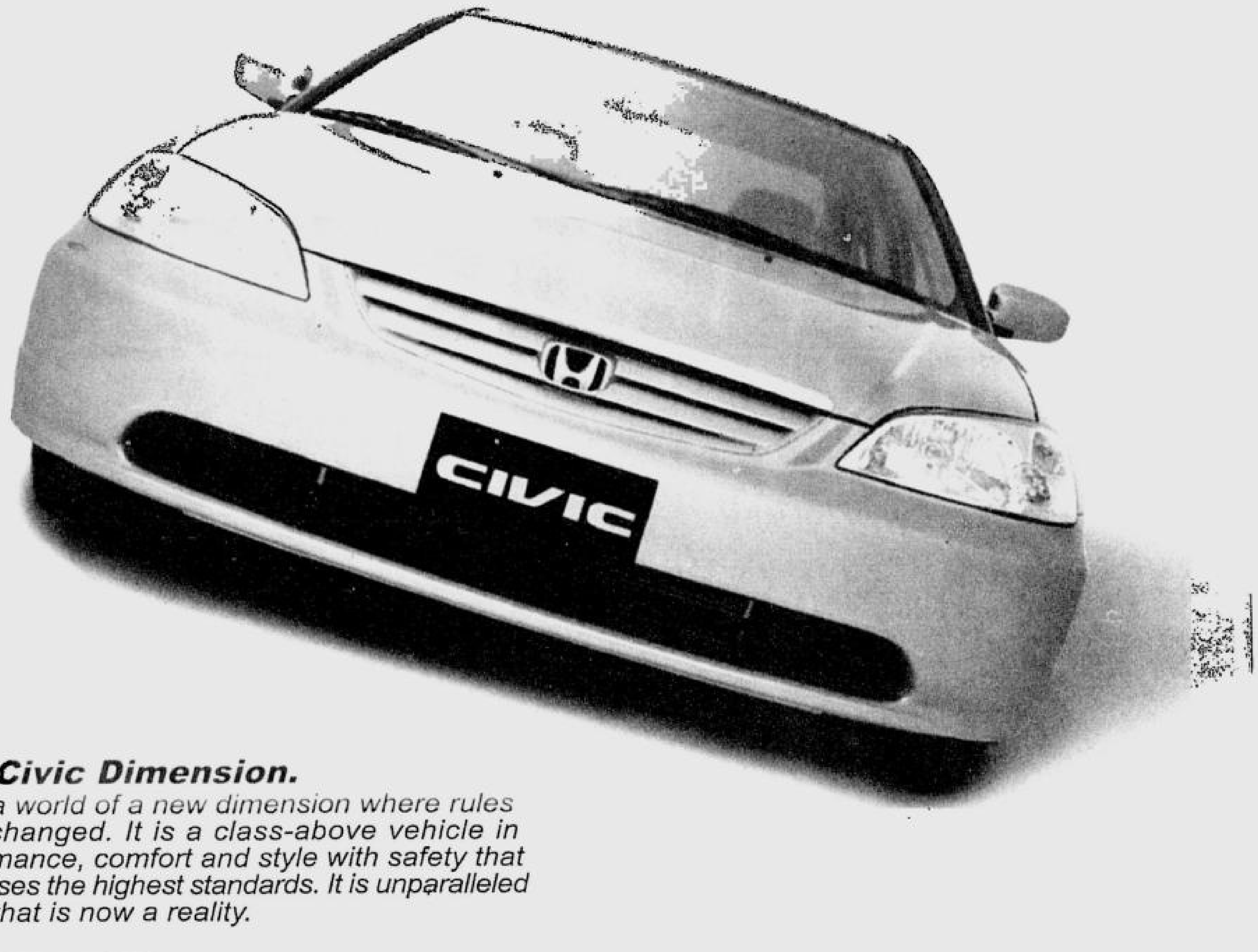

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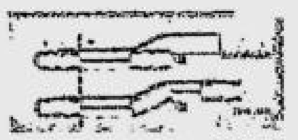
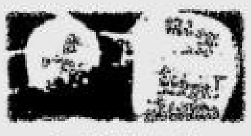
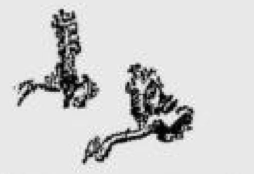

Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS)**


Dual SRS Airbags**

MP3 capable CD player**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(Rear) Double Wishbone Suspension

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Furniture that represents history

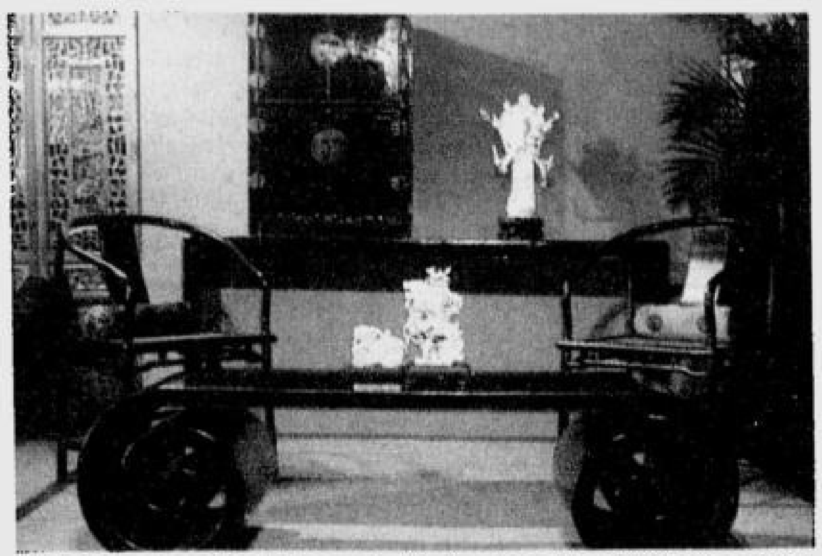
STEPPING inside Arts of Asia Works of Art is—as the cliché goes—like stepping back in time. The old martial arts movies come to mind, but the suggestion ends there.

You aren't in a movie set; you're surrounded by the real thing: elegant armchairs; couch beds whose intricate carvings belie the massive timber from whence they came; flamboyant wine tables; handsome chests; elaborately embroidered and preserved tapestries—the list goes on.

Susann Lara's Arts of Asia (inspired by her favorite mag but "no relation"), is a veritable treasure trove of fine things painstakingly acquired from the Ming (1368-1644 A.D.) and Qing (1644-1911 A.D.) periods—and from Susann's indefatigable quests into China's faraway provinces and old estates.

Her love affair with classical Chinese pieces (which, in layman's terms, simply means antiques) began when she was in high school. The daughter of a devout Buddhist, the young Susann found herself in China three to four times a year accompanying her mother on her pilgrimages. "While my mom was in the temple doing her chanting and meditations, I would check in a hotel in the city"—and explore the city at her will, to pursue antique Chinese knickknacks.

The little trinkets, of course, which Susann sought out and bought on her teenager's allowance, were a smidgen compared to the exquisite furniture, embroidery and jade carvings she pored over in the magazine Arts Asia. Nevertheless, she began collecting them, and by the time she was in college, had accumulated pieces that friends thought worthy to buy themselves.



JADITE carvings of a dragon and *qilin* (hornless dragon) sit atop a scroll-shaped nanwood table in black lacquer, which serves as a foil for two zitanwood round-back armchairs. Behind, on a Qing dynasty black lacquer hall table (18th century), are a miniature elmwood curio cabinet and an ivory figurine of the Goddess of Mercy.

It is common knowledge that marketers of reproductions can easily earn three times more than those into authentic pieces. This—and the fact that creating them are much easier and faster—is the main reason so many "serious" collectors are tempted into venturing into repros. Susann remembers the time someone had already suggested she sell such repros in her shop. Needless to say, she was totally aghast. "I'd never do that—I want to save the name of Arts of Asia," she says. "It's a choice between a beautifully restored piece and a cheap fake."

Untrained eyes will wonder if some of the items in Arts of Asia are new. That's because Susann takes time to study and keep an eye on the restoration work herself. If the piece was constructed in a period when lacquer was not in the mode—but was added later according to succeeding fashion or owners' tastes—it is stripped off. Unsightly add-ons that likewise do not belong to the era in which it was built are removed. The item then attains the form closest to its original state.

Arts of Asia Works of Art is holding a month-long May sale in commemoration of its Makati branch's first anniversary. Expect discounts of up to 50 percent. Arts of Asia is located at 11 Jupiter St., Makati City; 4/L Interior Center, SM Megamall B, and at The Promenade, Alabang Town Center. Call 899-3802 or 895-7907.

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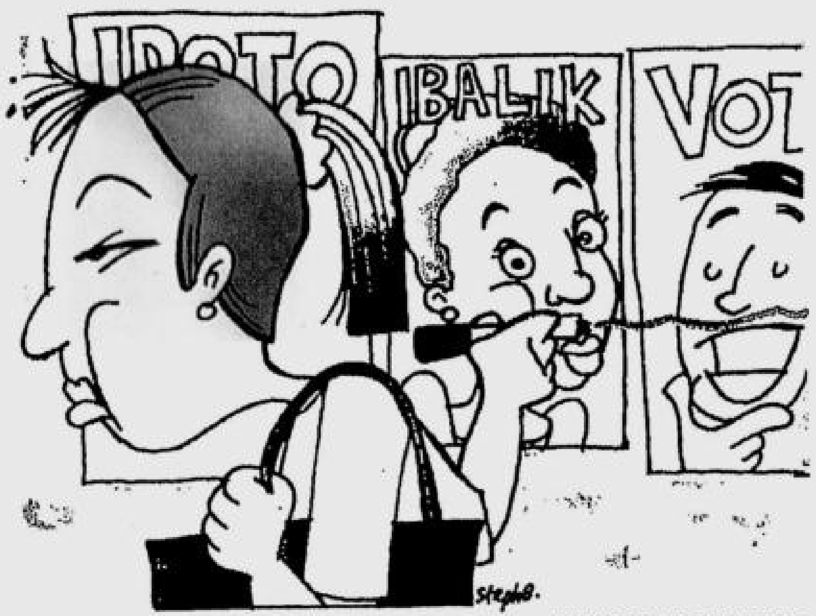

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

When misery is chic

By Jose Javier Reyes

NOWADAYS, it has become fashionable to be miserable. Every conversation about the state of the economy and the condition of our country always ends up with sighs of exhaustion or downright exasperation. Each attempt to project the not-so-distant future elicits gasps of frustration. Memories of the recent elections that will be recorded as a major historical fiasco lead to remarks overflowing with blatant cynicism or anguished frustration.

Painful as it is to admit, the euphoria of People Power II seemed to have fizzled out all too quickly. But what did we expect? A miracle? We have mastered the art of the shortcut in political procedures, but we have not yet learned that the rest of real life does not and cannot depend on our penchant for religious phenomena. We were out there yelling our heads off last January only to find ourselves shell-shocked, stupefied and dumbfounded by the events last Labor Day.

Now we are beginning to ask ourselves, "Hey, what was that all about?" The answer we get is that unlike the way we conveniently fast-track political processes, there is no shortcut to rebuilding a damaged nation. Even more daunting is the realization that no amount of street chanting, image building and self-congratulations can truly and effectively redefine our sense of nationhood.

> The cancer of corruption has rooted itself right there in the marrow of culture. We shudder at the thought of what form of chemotherapy is necessary

Looking around

That is when we look around. What we see are the remnants of extensive and expensive political campaigns in every available flat surface that can catch the eye. Pictures of candidates of all shapes, sizes, colors, persuasions, partisan inclinations—now peeling off like scabs on a skin suffering from *galis-aso*. The city is dirty; even the trees have been violated with graying streamers proclaiming promises that have yet to be fulfilled much less remembered. And while the winning politicos have their arms raised in victory, the losers are yelping, screaming bloody murder, recounting their evidence of massive cheating and explaining the strategies used by their more moneyed opponent to buy off voters or render David Copperfield tricks during canvassing.

We ask ourselves whatever happened to all those efforts to bring about political consciousness and responsibility. We thump our feet in anger because all those splendid campaigns to "conscienticize" the *masa* seemed to have passed like some insignificant whiff of nothing because they voted for exactly the people we had wished never got into the Magic 13.

Ha-ha-ha! An act of defiance, the social critics say, the power of sheer number, a slap on our moisturized faces because the members of the *masa* are telling us to shove all our highfalutin noble intentions up our aerobicized posteriors. We wince and call them idiots. We make hasty generalizations about the futility of this exercise and how this country will never become anything within our lifetimes. It's those people, we complain. It's their absolute lack of conviction or even concern for the future of our Motherland.

We conveniently forget or evade the fact that

WHEN/ p.F3

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Adventures in the cosmetics trade

BY CAMILLE T. CRUZ
PHOTOS BY RAYMOND LAUCHENGCO

PULP. Juice-inspired scent

SMELL like coffee with Java, a coffee-inspired unisex scent

SODA pop smells like cola.

THERE'S a store where women don't have to wait in a long queue just to pay for their tweezers. PCX (Personal Care Exchange) owes its success to branding, store out and customer convenience. PCX is the sister store of the clothing brands Bench and Herbench.

The latest branch of PCX will open at Rockwell Power Plant, Robinsons Ermita and Galleria, although the flagship remains at the Alabang Town Center. Makeups by L'Oreal, Maybelline and Revlon are always available. Because of the hassle-free shopping environment, more customers would rather shop there.

PCX tends to beat the bigger stores in selling such labels as L'Oréal and Neutrogena. It slightly breaks away from the run of the mill by introducing other brands, including exclusive cosmetics from Japan such as Naris and Chifure. Packaged in pastels and inviting graphics, these products are user-friendly and appealing. Since they come from Japan, they are responsive to local skin care needs. Since the Asian complexion has more melanin, it is more sensitive. The formulations are milder.

Also found in PCX are other Japanese labels such as Kanebo and Biore. It also has Shiseido toiletries that are hard to find.

Most good things are found in small packages. PCXtra's is the house brand of hard-to-find accessories such as brushes and atomizers. Packaged in plastic and foil sheet, PCXtra's is clever and trendy.

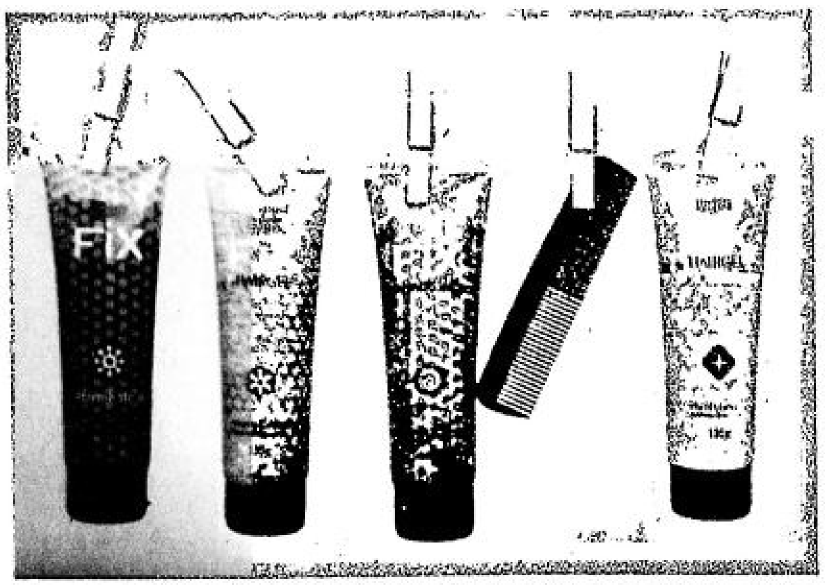
The store suppliers have developed grooming products for Bench and Herbench. Among its products are the facial whitening-cum-moisturizing cream and the anti-acne formulas. It's a tough job for a brand associated with clothing to compete in skin care but so far, the lines have been doing well.

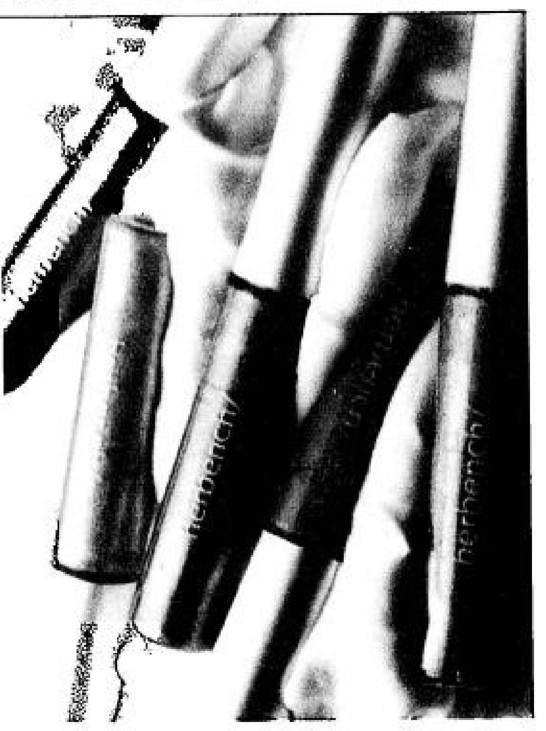
Bench scents cater to all markets and are more affordable than designer colognes. Thanks to Pops Fernandez's endorsement, the Herbench makeup, which is made in Japan, is moving. Eventually it will go into a full range.

Filipinos should try products closer to home. The best skin care and makeup products do not necessarily come from the West. At least, fashion is adventurous.

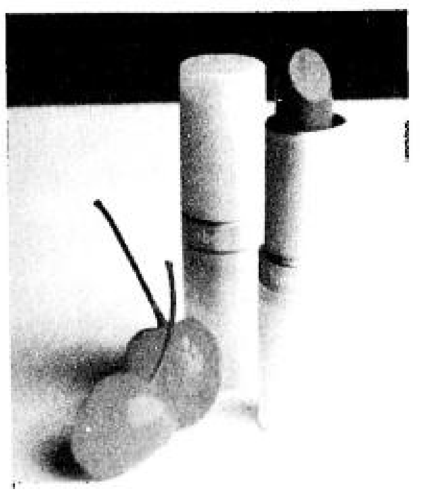
E-mail the author at ***camille_cruz@hotmail.com***

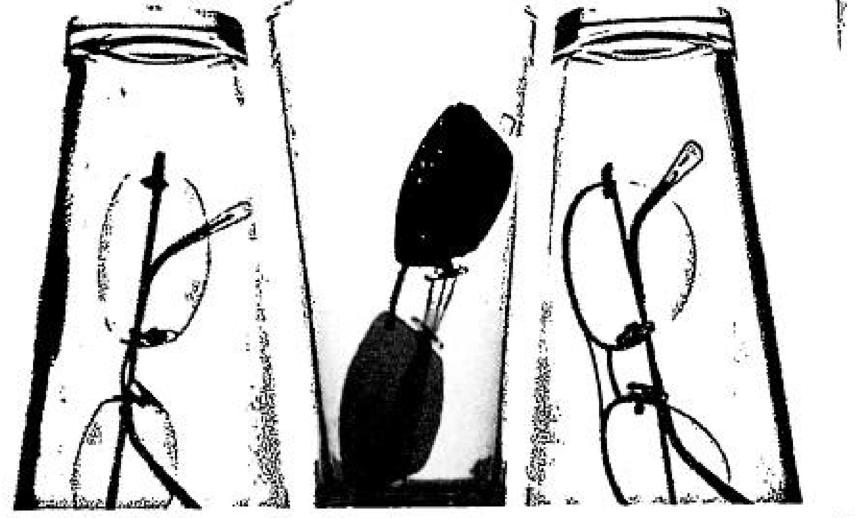
Products fly off the shelves in an environment that's friendly to customers


WATER-BASED hair gels give a clean and weightless hold and are enriched with vitamins.


COLORED lip glosses with long-lasting formulation that help hydrate the lips.

POTION
POTION
POTION
POTION
MOISTURIZING body spray


HERBENCH Lip Color is a nondrying, moisture-rich formula with SPF6 and Vitamin E and avocado oil to condition the lips.


SHADES of fashion

TE. Tea delight

Hot lips

INFRARED has the longest wavelength and the weakest energy of all visible light. For Chanel, the new Infrarouge colors are more than just colors. They recreate hues by using different effects. Infrared waves do not pass through matter, they heat up objects as they irradiate them, in a new light.

With Infrarouge, Dominique Moncourtois and Heidi Morawetz have created a new lipstick for Chanel, within our range of vision but going beyond the limits of color.

It has a range of 18 shades, magical and vibrant, based on harmonies of red and its infinite varieties: symphonies of pink, shades of brown, exuberant oranges, the blaze of true red, crimson, garnet, vermilion, ruby and scarlet.

A new lipstick is naturally a major event for the brand and makeup segment, especially in view of the continued success of Chanel in the lipsticks segment. "Thanks to the indispensable Hydrabase. Infrarouge will fulfill the same role in relation to Hydrabase as Allure does alongside N5," says Moncourtois, Chanel international director of makeup creation.

Chanel presents Hydrabase and Infrarouge side by side with the aim of maintaining the surprise factor and intensifying the appeal, through an increasingly rich palette of textures, effects and colors. "So it's not a question of one lipstick that is more classical against another, which is more modern. That said, Infrarouge does derive more benefit from the development of high-tech pigments because its incredibly fine and elastic texture gives optimal reproduction of the spectacular effects of these pigments," Moncourtois says.

So what are the real innovations in Infrarouge? "If you try it, you will notice immediately that the first innovation is the amazing fineness of the film of lipstick on the lips. Like a very comfortable second skin which is no way inconsistent with its excellent holding properties. The formula is a real technical tour de force. The other major innovation is the use of certain types of pigments, which give each one of the shades, from the most stunning to the most peaceful, a rare brilliance and luminosity," Moncourtois says.

Moncourtois adds the certain shades are coated, which allows Chanel to obtain surface color effects on the lips, which would otherwise be impossible. For example, dual or triple effects, or glitter finishes, which otherwise could only be achieved through the over- or underlaying of two products.

CHANEL'S MARKET GETS YOUNGER. Maan Gonzalez, Marga Padilla, Paola Zobel and Audrey Tan wear Chanel's Infrarouge. Makeup by Henri Calayag of BCBG
PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA

"Coating gives a totally magical aspect to some of the Infrarouge shades, with visual effects never seen before, because the technique did not previously exist. Also, it's possible to control the coating film and therefore the final effect on the lips, very precisely," says Morawetz, Chanel director of makeup creation studio.

The process of coating involves immersing the lipstick "bullet" in a mix of pigments so as to coat it with a fine film. "What's more, the technique stems from a happy accident. One day, a young woman operative in our production facility called us to report an error in quantities and processing in the mixing vats. The resulting lipstick mixture had a strange appearance, like metal castings. We thought it was brilliant and explored its potential for industrial production," says Moncourtois.

Non-oily skin perfector that won't clog pores

NU Skin introduces Nu Colour Skin Beneficial Concealer, a weightless concealer that improves skin's condition while veiling flaws and diminishing the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles.

Nu Colour's Skin Beneficial Concealer is more than just a cover-up; it's a superb weightless formula that contains pure Vitamins A, C and E to fight free radical damage and the signs of aging while comfrey and aloe help to reduce puffiness and soothe skin. This non-oily, non-irritating formula also delivers moisture to the skin without clogging pores. Use a shade slightly lighter than your actual skin tone to accurately conceal blemishes, dark circles, fine lines and wrinkles.

"Skin Beneficial Concealer combines the best of science and nature," explains Lori Bush, Nu Skin vice president of product development. "Beneficial vitamins and botanicals calm skin while an innovative polymer technology works to diminish the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles."

Packaged in a sleek black soft-touch compact, Skin Beneficial Concealer is available in three neutral shades including Light, Cream and Medium. Call 689-0333, or visit www.nuskin.com.ph or contact your local Nu Skin distributor.

Nu Colour
Nu Colour

Keep it subtle

SELLOUT. Estée Lauder's Sheer Innocence collection was a sellout in Rustan's. The argyle patterned face powder, the compact eye shadows in fruity colors and the iridescent lipsticks in sherbet shades were snapped up by loyal clients.

DRESS up your lips, but don't overdress it, says the House of Lauder. The product, which epitomizes this latest look, is Pure Color Crystal, a new collection of crystalline lipsticks.

Pure Color Crystal, which hits the shelves of Rustan's this June, looks like a lipstick but wears sheer and shiny like a gloss. It gives out a multidimensional color with the use of multifaceted crystal pigments, liquid polymers and emollients. Polymers and emollients are blended together to form a shiny coat over the pigment, creating the three-dimensional effect, which is one of this season's most innovative styles.

Soybean extract and BHT create a smooth and light texture that feels like a second skin. Shea butter combined with a choice blend of vitamins, including Vitamins C and E, protect lips from environmental free radicals.

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
MAKEUP BY MANNI IBAY

LIPS are left neutral or sheer and color is left for other parts of the face.

When misery is chic

(From page F1)

there are more tangibles in poverty than there might be in our concept of idealism. We call it lack of foresight, they know it as daily survival—the kind of struggle we love to put into theory and simplify in social equations. It is the pesos in their hands as against the noble battle for national greatness that brews in our minds. Isn't that much easier to understand? And when we do, we also understand the depth and scope of our national pain.

Malady

While the middle class holds onto the remnants of their comfort zone, they realize the extent of the malady. The politicians will never run out promises and platforms, but the more immediate truth is that more and more of us are losing jobs, more and more businesses are closing down everyday. We hear our friends talk about the collapsing retail business, the insurmountable burden of dollar loans, the high interest rates, and how our peso is almost half its value in 1997.

We huddle together and rub each other's backs, reassuring ourselves that we can survive this storm. We sing "Heal Our Land" and muster our remaining energies to fight this battle to the finish with heads held up high. We tell ourselves that because we are righteous, we are more intelligent, we are the movers and shakers, we are the vital part of the formula... therefore we shall prevail.

We tell our children that we will work for a better Philippines even if it kills us. Then we retreat to our air-conditioned rooms and rummage through every available sociopolitical theory to try to explain what is happening and what can be done to change the course of events. We weep quietly and privately, afraid to show that we too are now afraid.

Why are we all so nervous? It is because we feel the ground beginning to slip under our feet. The coiffured and manicured set is rushing to Price Club buying institution-size boxes of detergent and enough toilet paper to last them for three reincarnations. We start glorifying the joys of home-cooked meals, philosophize about cocooning and we begin to rethink about the cost of living relative to our price of comfy existence. We rattle off the buzzwords of the moment—practicality, downsizing, scrimping. We cringe upon hearing terms such as lay-off, forced retirement, repossess and overdrawn credit.

The middle-class comfort zone is fast shrinking because the ugliness of social reality is settling in.

We wish that the lands across the seas could offer some sort of haven—or even solution. But, hey, the people of San Francisco are also cringing with the unbelievable rise of their power rates, right? The dotcom business is crashing and the *nouveau riche* are fast morphing into the *nouveau poor*. Our migrant relatives in Canada are also whining because scheduled brownouts and the unbelievable rise of fuel prices are threatening them. There goes the option to get a green card while foisting the nobility of our brown hearts.

Yet when we hear these anecdotes of woe, we actually feel relieved. We console ourselves by saying that the problem is not limited to these islands. Worldwide *naman pala, eh*. But the consolation is so superficial, therefore temporary. We are already poorer—and we are becoming poorer in quality and quantity.

Inevitable

We look at the politicians and keep our fingers crossed that when Comelec finally finishes its canvassing, the government can finally get back to work and give us back our right to dream, to hope. We witness the entire spin-doctoring taking place, all the compromises and exercises, government figures in photo ops and horse-trading, and say that these are inevitable in the game. Inevitable as vote-selling, vote-switching, cheating, graft and corruption, perhaps?

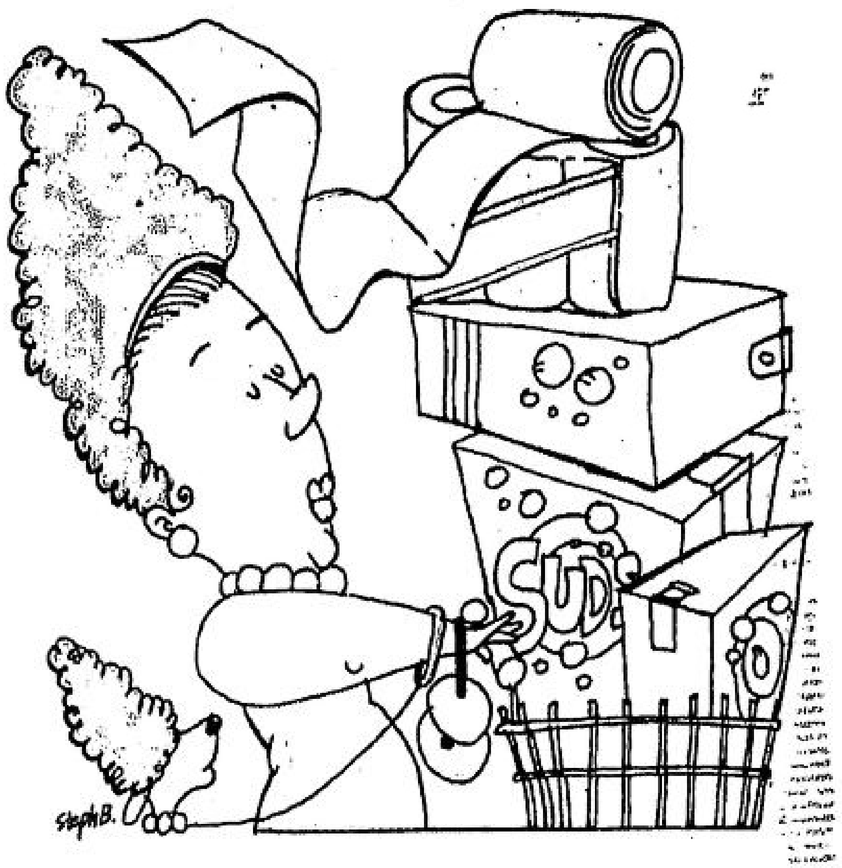
The cancer has rooted itself right there in the marrow of culture. We shudder at the thought of what form of chemotherapy is necessary.

So what do we do? We pray to whatever convenient god that the politicking will finally give way to governing and that some semblance of national vision arises. We hold our breaths and briefly shut our eyes before we assure our children and ourselves that everything will be all right. We see all the signs on the walls (back to the image of the peeling scabs) and then privately ask ourselves: Where we are going?

And this is when the real fear settles in. We cannot conceive a plausible answer—not with what is being shown our way. Not with what politicos are saying, with what is happening.

Maybe it is about time we hit our heads on the walls of our well-kept hovels. This is perhaps the only way for us to realize that a nation is not the machinations of government alone. It is about the people. It is because of its people. And we cannot keep on fooling ourselves by claiming that we are the only people.

After all that has been said and done, we should be sensible enough to ask ourselves an entirely different set of questions. We know the problems all too well. But how many of us without political aspirations or self-promoting causes are willing to set out to find the solutions? In the meantime, let us all be fashionably miserable.



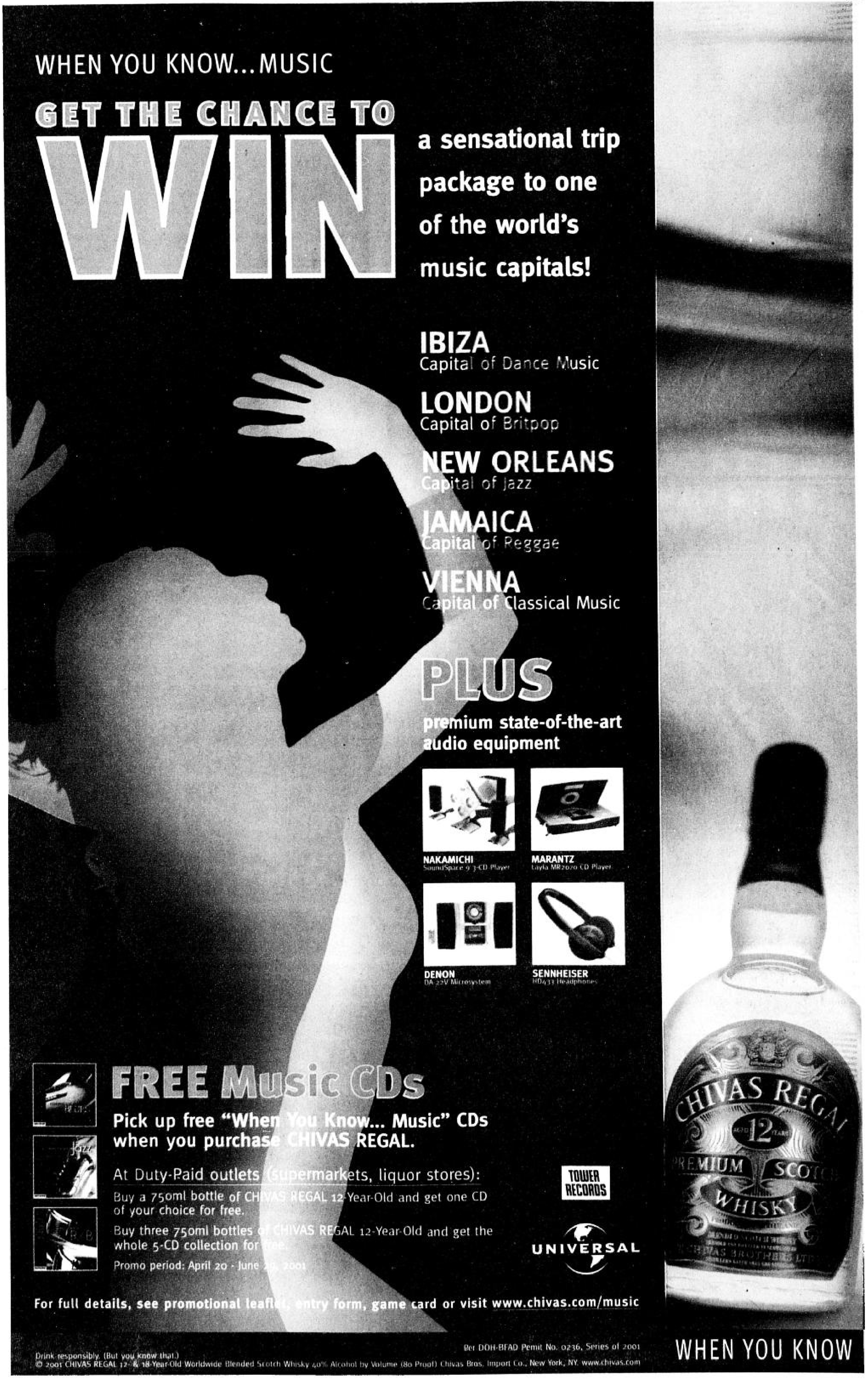
14 chosen to attend Iligan writers workshop

THE OFFICE of the President of the Philippines, the MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology's Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension (MSU-IIT OVCRE) and the Mindanao Creative Writers Group Inc. announce that out of 44 applicants, 14 have been chosen as writing fellows to the 8th Iligan National Writers Workshop to be held at the Elena Tower Inn in Iligan City on May 30 to June 2.

The fellows are: Luzon: Eldric Paul A. Peredo/fiction/Vigan, Ilocos Sur/ University of Santo Tomas Central Seminary; Raymund Magno Garlitos/poetry/Quezon City/De La Salle University; Vincent-Jan Cruz Rubio/fiction/Pasig City/UP Diliman; and, Nino Saavedra Manaog/poetry/ Naga City/Ateneo de Naga University. Visayas: Cor Marie V. Villojon/poetry/ San Jose, Antique/St. Anthony's College; Yvonne M. Esperas/poetry/Tacloban City/ Leyte Normal University; Cecilia Locsin-Nava/fiction/Bacolod City/University of Santo Tomas; Vincent Joseph F. Sandoval/ fiction/Manduae City/University of San Carlos; and, Michael O. Ligalig/fiction/ Anda, Bohol/Silliman University. Mindanao: Romel M. Oribe/fiction/Tandag, Surigao del Sur/University of San Carlos; Mario L. Cuezon/fiction/Jimenez, Misamis Occidental/UP Diliman; Karen Kay O. Rivero/poetry/Basilan City/MSU-IIT; Genevieve Mae B. Aquino/poetry/Davao City/ UP Diliman; and, Isagani Alamban Amoncio/poetry/Gingoog City/Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan.

This year's panelists are Leoncio P. Deriada, Jaime An Lim, Rosario Cruz Lucero, Anthony L. Tan, German V. Gervacio and Christine Godinez-Ortega, who is also workshop director. Dr. Erlinda Kintanar Alburo, director of the University of San Carlos' Cebuano Studies Center, is this year's keynote lecturer.

A highlight of the writers workshop is the launching of "Native Words, Native Roots," proceedings of the 7th INWW (2000) published by MSU-IIT and edited by An Lim, Godinez-Ortega and Tan.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WHEN YOU KNOW

Warrior chic

Fashion steps into the war zone and finds itself in a creative explosion

THERE'S a war out there among clothing manufacturers. Who has got the more saleable military look? With the revival of the '80s fashion, the military look is back in fashion. Local retailers jumped at the opportunity because the look sells. The separates will never go out of fashion—be they trench coats or severe uniform styles.

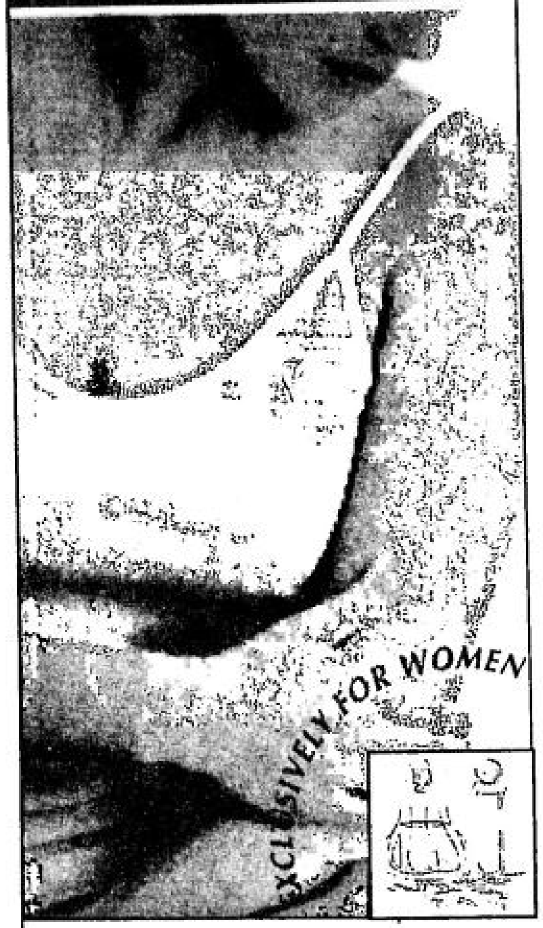
Designers have drawn inspiration from military-field pants with drawstrings at the waist and bottom of the hem, combat jackets, cotton patches on elbows and shoulders, side cargo pockets, flaps, epaulets, belt loops and the predominance of khaki, brown, drab olive and black. For the trendy teens, the camouflage print is a hit.

SPAGHETTI-STRAPPED dress with flaps

GREEN and tan uniform

KHAKI shift

The first signs of stress become apparent on the skin.



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Backpack to school

THIS is the first lesson students have to learn when classes open in June: "Be practical. There's no need to buy a new bag if you can have it at Hang Ten for free."

Ongoing until June 15, Hang Ten Philippines is giving away a trendy and convenient backpack for free with every minimum single receipt purchase of Hang Ten merchandise worth P1,000.

The item, which comes in black and navy blue colors, can also be purchased at only P199 with every minimum single receipt purchase of P500.

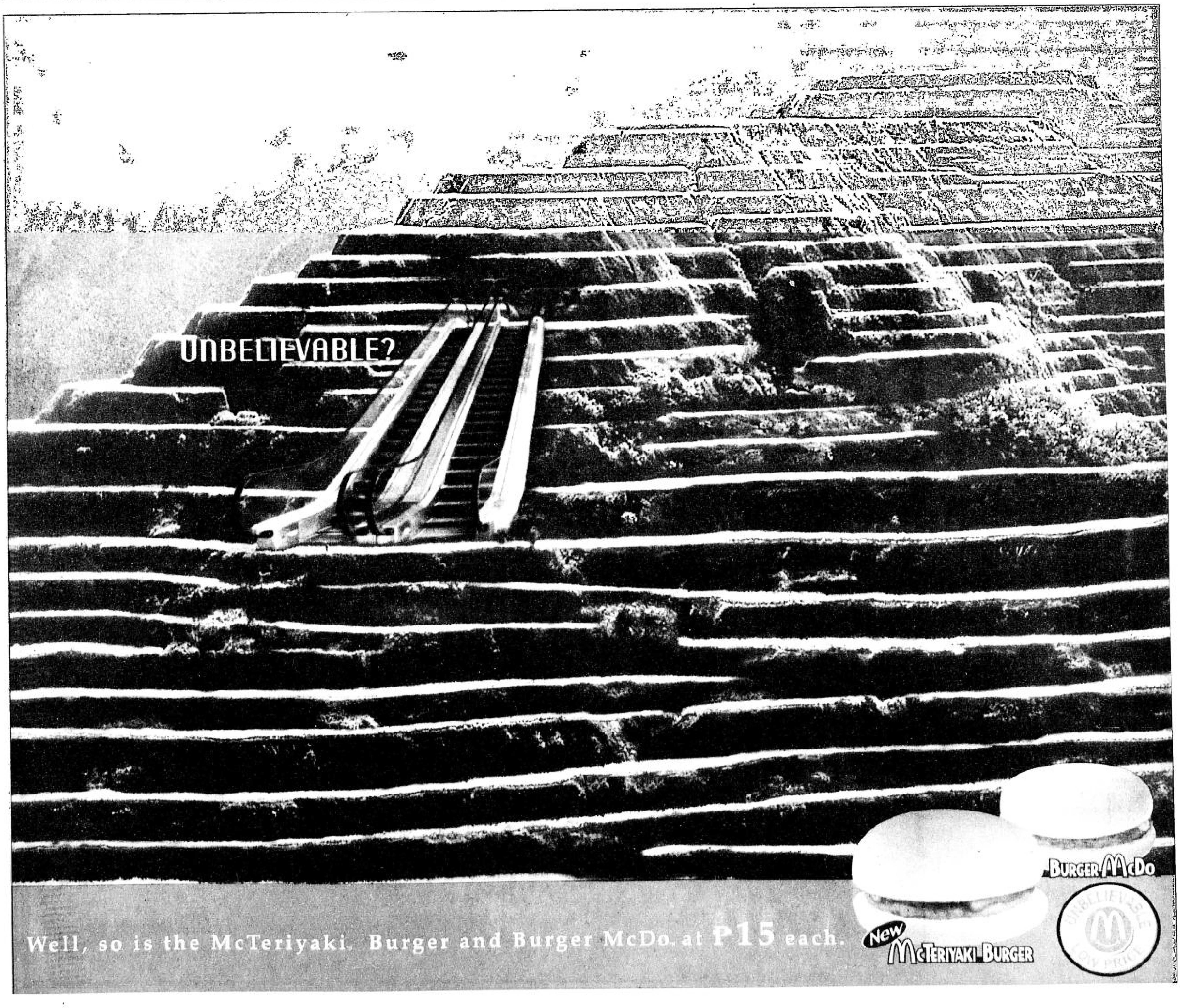
"Back(pack)-To-School Promo" is Hang Ten's act of gratitude to our loyal customers, particularly the fashion-conscious youth, whose continued patronage makes Hang Ten a formidable brand in casual clothing in the country.

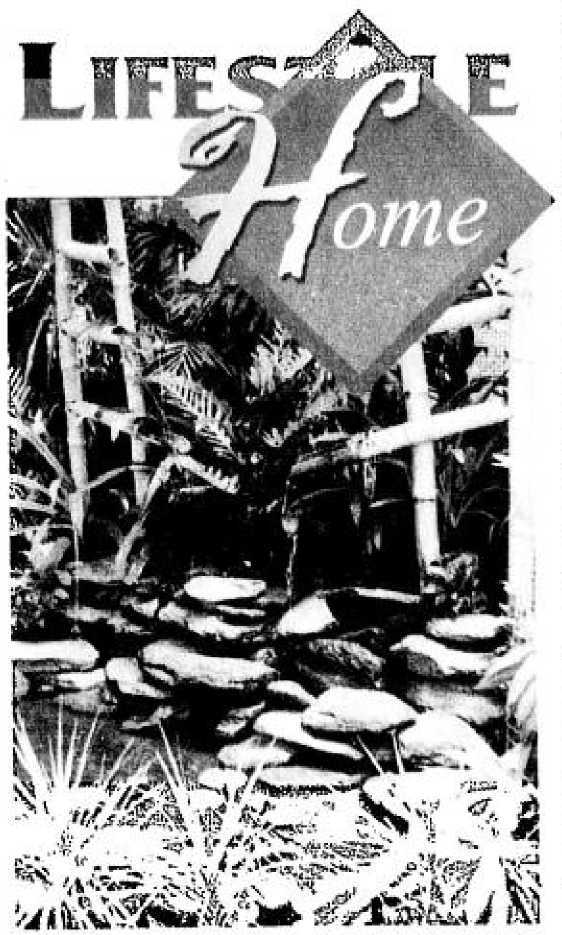
It has been a tradition among Filipino students to welcome the opening of classes with a new set of clothes, shoes, bags and school supplies. But with the rising cost of education, they may no longer afford all of these. Hang Ten understands their needs that is why it is offering the bags for free.

The voguish bags provide a perfect match to the hip and cool casual getup students can only find at 31 Hang Ten stores in Metro Manila, Pampanga, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Cabanatuan and Batangas.

Just recently, the clothing shop introduced a fresh line of shirts with colorful designs and a variety of durable pants with modern styles that suit every fashion bud. Other Hang Ten must-haves are caps, shoes, belts and scents.

Hang Ten is highly popular among the youth market segment in providing quality, trendy and reasonably priced casual clothing and accessories. All products sold in the Philippines are imported from abroad.




LIFES LE
Home

STONES for watergarden, Teresa rocks, Mindoro flatstones, Ilocos sandstones

Upon this rock, you will build your garden

BY TITA V. GIRON

YOU'RE missing something in your gardening life if you haven't joined the stone craze, said a speaker in one of the garden club meetings we attended. The topics were *saikei*, the art of landscaping in trays and shallow dishes, and *suiseki* or the art of figure stones. Both plant arts use a lot of stones and rocks for accents.

That was one of the compelling reasons we were traipsing one rainy afternoon at the garden stone centers in Cubao, searching for colored pebbles, the kind that are washed ashore on the beaches. They supposedly add dramatic colors to *saikei*. The other reason, of course, was the tall order from our editor

UPON/ p.G4

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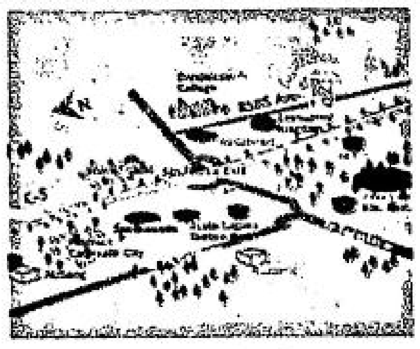
on
May 27, 2001 - Sunday**



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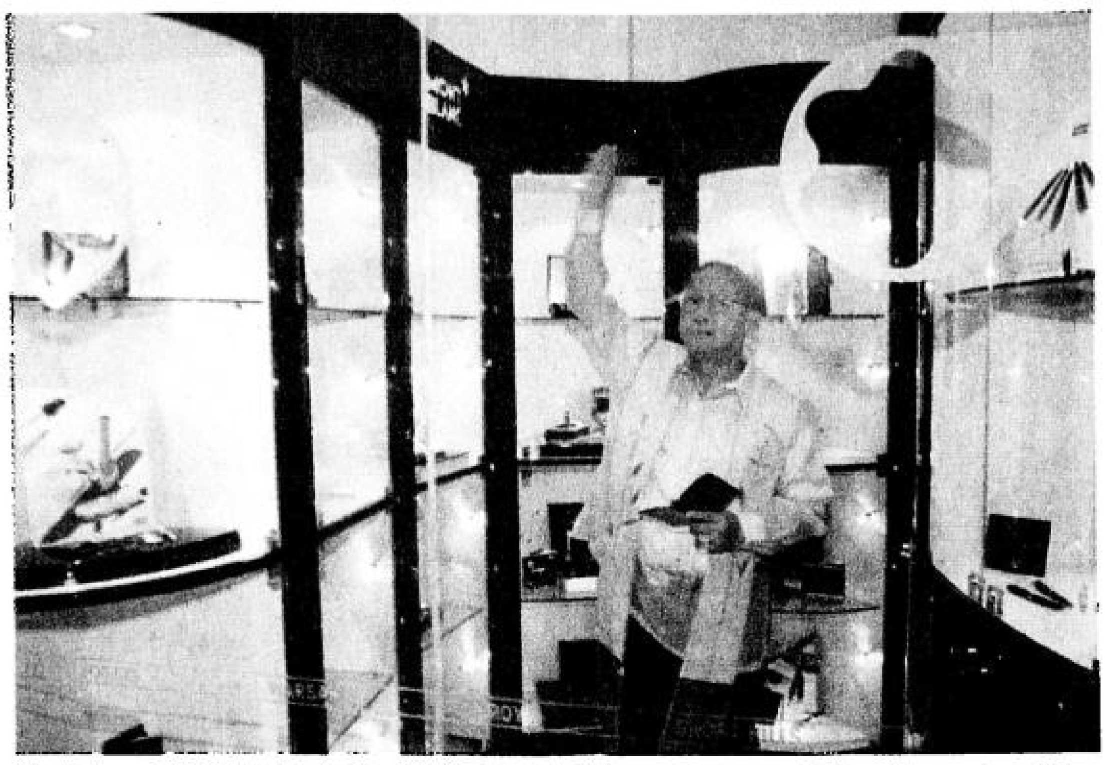


THE PRISTINE white and lacquer black setting of Montblanc gets a dose of blessing from Msgr. Manuel Gabriel.

PHOTOS BY VAL HANDUMON

Pen reaches pinnacle of perfection

THE NEWEST Montblanc boutique was blessed and inaugurated on May 22 at the Power Plant Mall of Rockwell Center, Makati City.

Founded in 1906 in Hamburg, Germany, Montblanc has since represented a commitment to unique works of master craftsmanship, the creation of useful products of the finest quality, and a luxury brand catering to people with demanding lifestyles.

Guests signed on framed guest tablets, writing their congratulatory messages with their own personal Montblancs.

After the ceremonial ribbon cutting by journalist, lawyer and new Makati congressman Teodoro Locsin Jr. and TV personality Kris Aquino, attention was turned to the Montblanc products on display.

Locsin's Montblanc watch—a Chrono Steel Black Dial—received a lot of attention. There was consensus that the timepieces were the logical next step for those who already had the pens.

Montblanc, the Rolls Royce of pens, opens a boutique at Rockwell

Ching Cruz took home a Boheme Noir pen, which features an onyx on its platinum-plated rings and clip. The fashionable and extroverted Boheme is the first series launched by Montblanc since 1924 when it launched the more classical Meisterstuck line.

Boheme, which will eventually include jewelry accessories and leather goods, has two writing instruments: the Boheme Noir and the Boheme Rouge, which has a ruby on a gold-plated ring and clip.

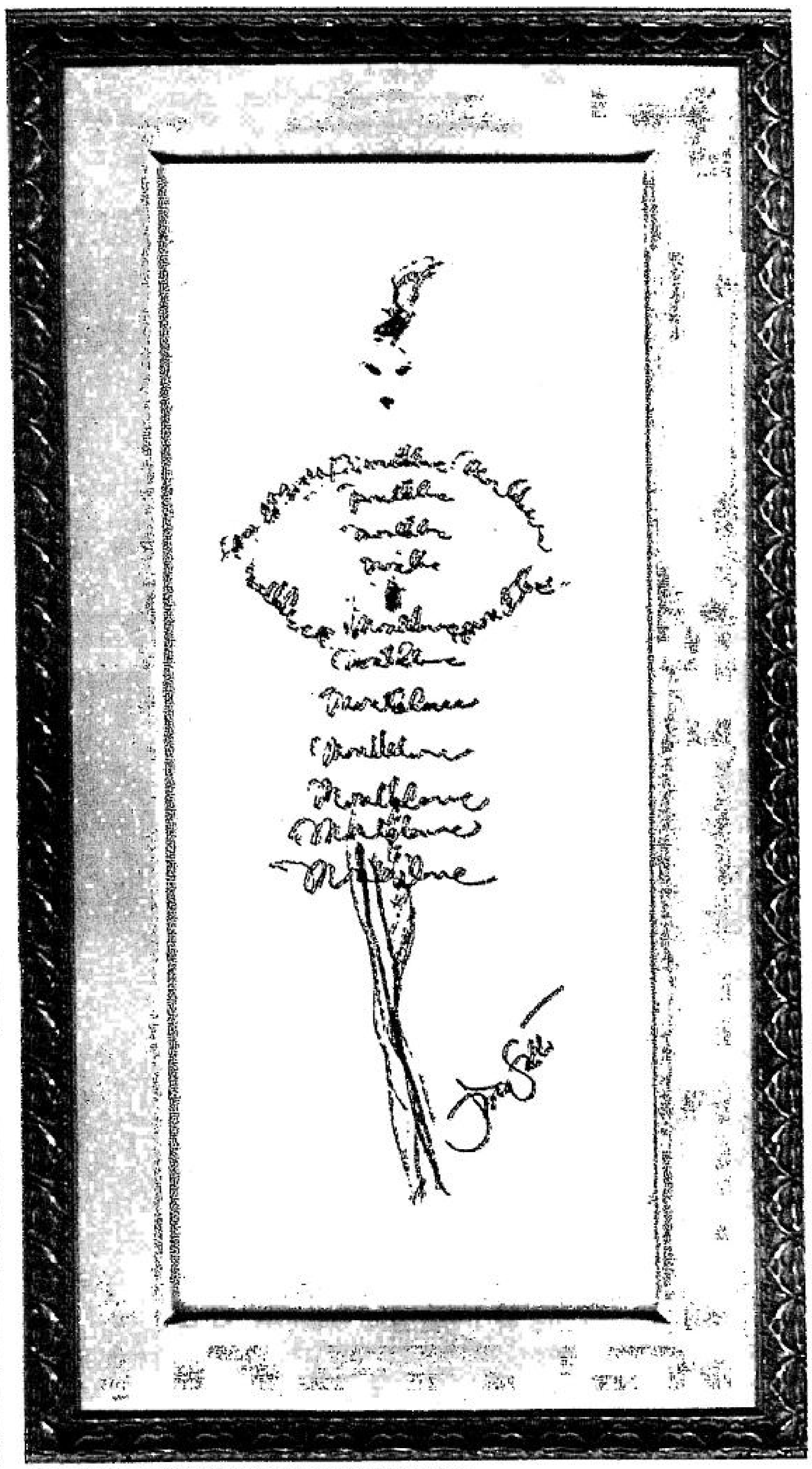
Kris Aquino went home with a Yehudi Menuhin. After the Special Edition Leonard Bernstein, this second in the series of Commemorative Donation Pens is in honor of one of the greatest musicians and conductors of our age. Part of the proceeds will go to the support of culture and the arts. The Yehudi Menuhin, in particular, supports the Philharmonia of the Nations.

Powerhouse guests, black birds of paradise from Antonio Garcia of the Mabolo Flower Shop, Dom Perignon and Chateau Layettes Rothschild from Cibo's Gaita Fores, and eclectic New Age music from Grace Nono—all combined to reflect the lifestyle of Montblanc.

Montblanc is exclusively distributed by Gift Gate Inc. It has boutiques at Glorietta 2, Ayala Center and the Montblanc Shop & Service Center (2/F Gift Gate Building, Greenhills Shopping Center). It is also available at National Bookstore (Glorietta 1, Shangri-La Plaza, Festival Supermall and Rustan's Tower) and at the lobbies of leading hotels in Metro Manila and Cebu.

INNO Sotto with Kris Aquino holding a Montblanc special edition Yehudi Menuhin Pen. The newest pen from the Montblanc Donation Series caught the eye of civic-minded Kris as part of the proceeds of the pen goes to various organizations.

MARGARITA Locsin



DESIGNER Inno Sotto's sketch using a Montblanc pen

MONTBLANC guests and well-wishers: Ching Cruz, Msgr. Manuel Gabriel and...

... **SISTERS** Georgie and Isabel Diaz

ABBY Binay with fellow Ateneo Law graduate Miguel Ramos

NANETTE Medved, Teddy Boy Locsin, Kris Aquino and Virgie Ramos

Montblanc Boutique-Rockwell blessing cocktail

Pass-around antipasti
Filo pillows with a trio of Fontina, Mozzarella and gruyere cheeses, Rucola-Pesto Genovese Dipping Sauce
Crostini with foie gras and candied *santol* shells
Crisp asparagus straws with a parmigiano crust
Barquillos cylinder with chive mousse and *ikura*
On the individual tables
Baked artichoke and sundried tomato dip with grilled flatbread and crostini rounds
Pasta: pappardelle with scallops, salmon roe and nori thread garnish
Tagliata of Angus tenderloin with portobellos, Parmesan and palm heart shavings
Pane fatti in casa
An assortment of home-baked breads (*focaccia, toscano, grissini, carta di musica, rusto*)
Wines
Red wine
Chateau Lafite Rothschild (1997)
Chateau Angelus (1993)
Champagne
Maille (millennium edition)
and fresh grape juice only from
Margarita Fores

Getting a community to manage and conserve their forest

THE CRIME of economic plunder is very much in the news these days. But an auxiliary crime is that of environmental plunder, which could lead to the first.

It raises questions like: How does one put a stop to the plunder of forests? You can arrest illegal loggers, of course, but that is, at best, a part-time solution, in need of continuous arrests. It will require 24-hour vigilance on the part of forest wardens or conservationists, but it will take an army of wardens to patrol the forests, so the matter of logistics could make the idea rather impractical and problematic.

What is proving to be the better way is getting the forest communities themselves involved in forest management. To be effective managers, the communities must be assisted in setting up cooperatives, in marketing their forest and farm produce, and in training for alternative livelihoods. That is how Community-based Forest Management (CBFM) works.

Edwin Rondina, environmentalist, writer, resident of Puerto Princesa, Palawan, and consultant in the Department of Agrarian Reform, has been going around the barangays and cooperatives under the CBFM to observe how the system works.

Strategy

The CBFM, says Rondina, is a program of the DENR, which transfers the protection, conservation and utilization of a given area to a specific group, usually people's organizations (POs), who then become the primary beneficiaries of the program. The strategy is meant to redirect the people's need to cut down trees to make a living by offering sustainable solutions and alternative livelihoods.

There are about 25 approved CBFMs in Palawan, reports Rondina, the first one being Barangay San Rafael. As this CBFM covers an aggregate upland area of about 400 hectares, it includes two other barangays—Tabanag and Concepcion—which have been grouped together as STC (for San Rafael-Tabanag-Concepcion). The barangays have set up a multipurpose cooperative referred to collectively as STCMPC.

There are sections in their area that require assisted natural regeneration. This means replanting and harvesting some minor forest products such as rattan, *almaciga*, fallen trunks and stumps, *nito* and honey.

Under this plant-and-harvest system, community folk are able to create additional sources of income. STCMPC is within a seaside community with the mountains only a few kilometers away. So there is fishing in the lowlands, and farming in the uplands and part of the low.

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

The barangays STC were awarded Resource Utilization Rights (RUR) by the DENR, which allows them the use of forest resources, to manage these and benefit from them.

EWW assistance

One gets an idea of the CBFM concept from an evaluation report of Enterprise Works Worldwide (EWW), an international NGO that assists POs like CBFM. The EWW provides development services to community groups so they can increase their incomes through the sustainable use of biodiversity.

Assistance comes in several levels. EWW provides enterprise and market-based incentives as a strategy for conservation, as set up by the US Agency for International Development (Usaid) through the Natural Resources Management program. Under this program, Usaid teams up with the DENR to assist communities gain resource tenure and to develop biodiversity management plans for areas transferred under the CBFM and Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim programs. The time frame (or tenure) for this program is 25 years, renewable for another 25.

The philosophy here, as explained to Rondina by a Palawan area program manager, is to conserve the forests, never forgetting that trees and other forest products are finite sources that must be regenerated so the benefits can continue. It is thus important that the stakeholders or those directly involved, be capable of the job.

This capability must develop into self-reliance, allowing community folk to go as far as they can on their own to enjoy the economic benefits from the program. And out of those benefits, to be able to replenish the resources they have extracted from the forests.

To Rondina, this process of planting and harvesting, extracting and replenishing under sustainable methods should go on continuously, for only then can CBFM members continue to derive benefits every step of the way.

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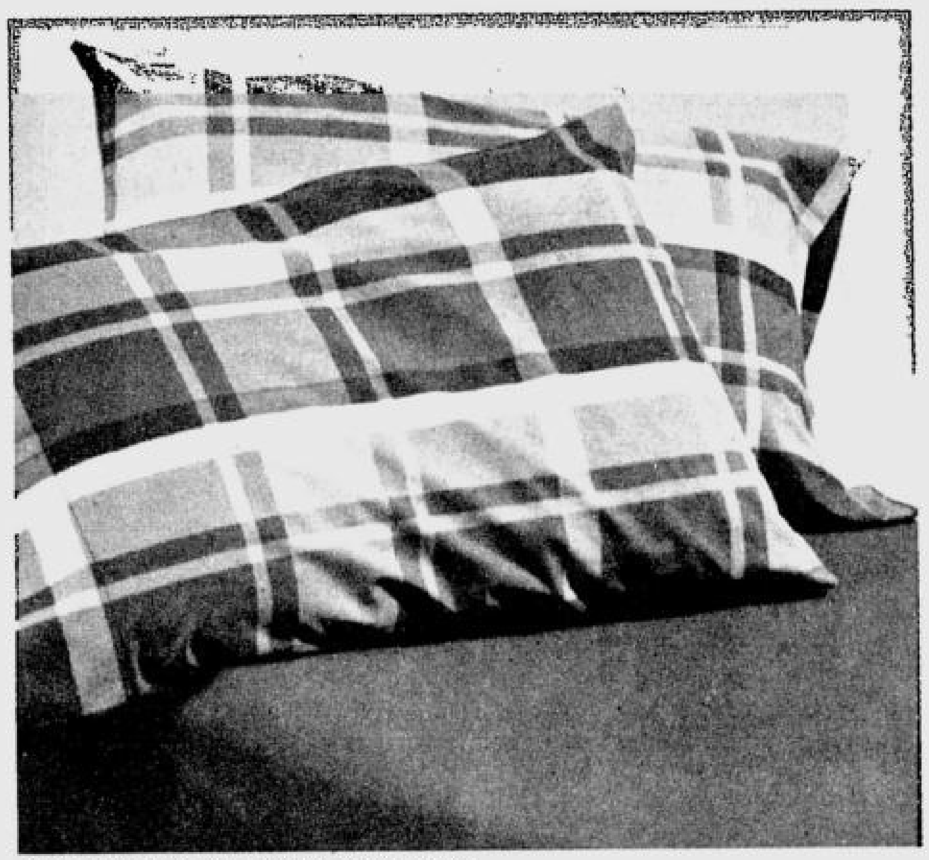

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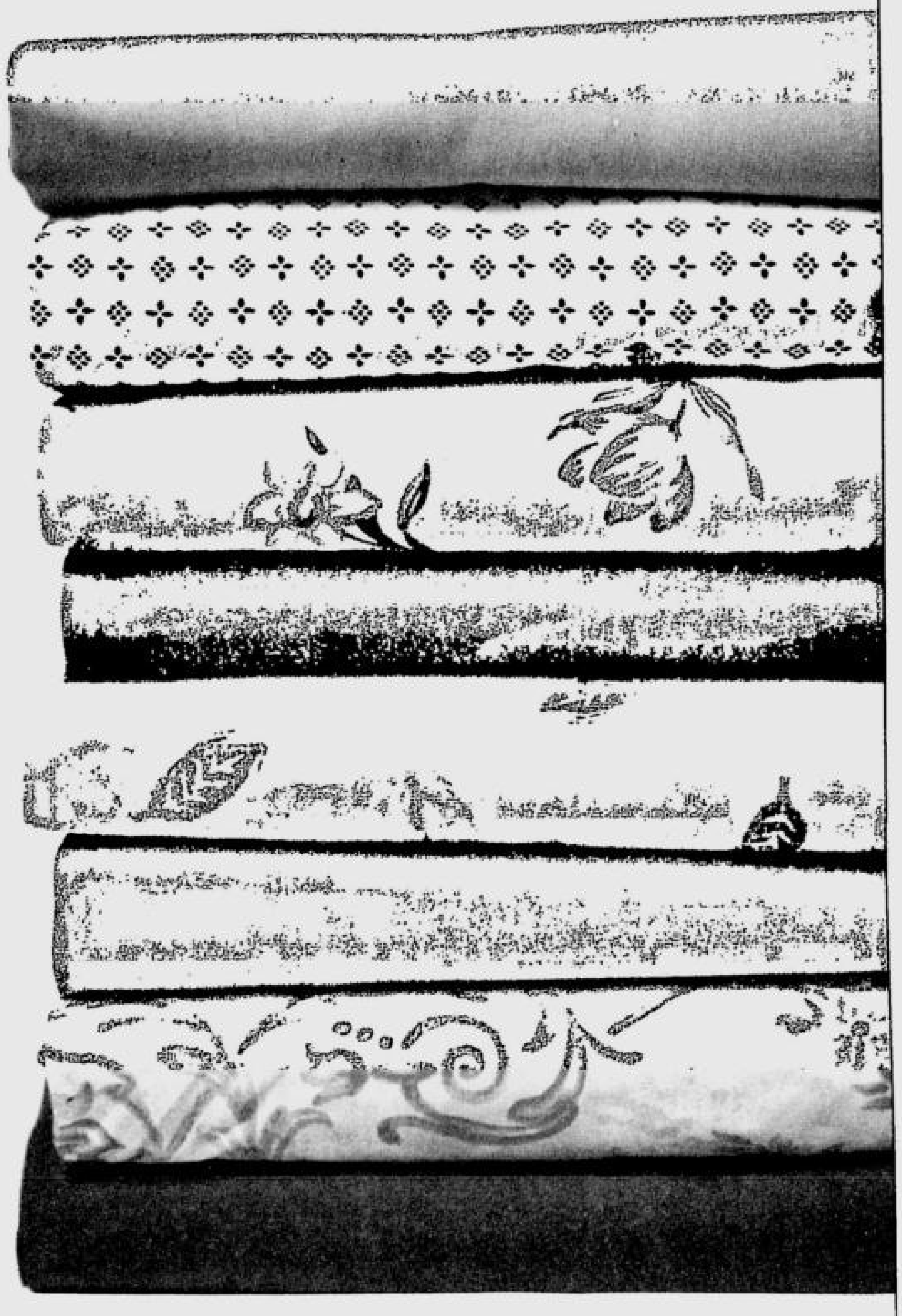

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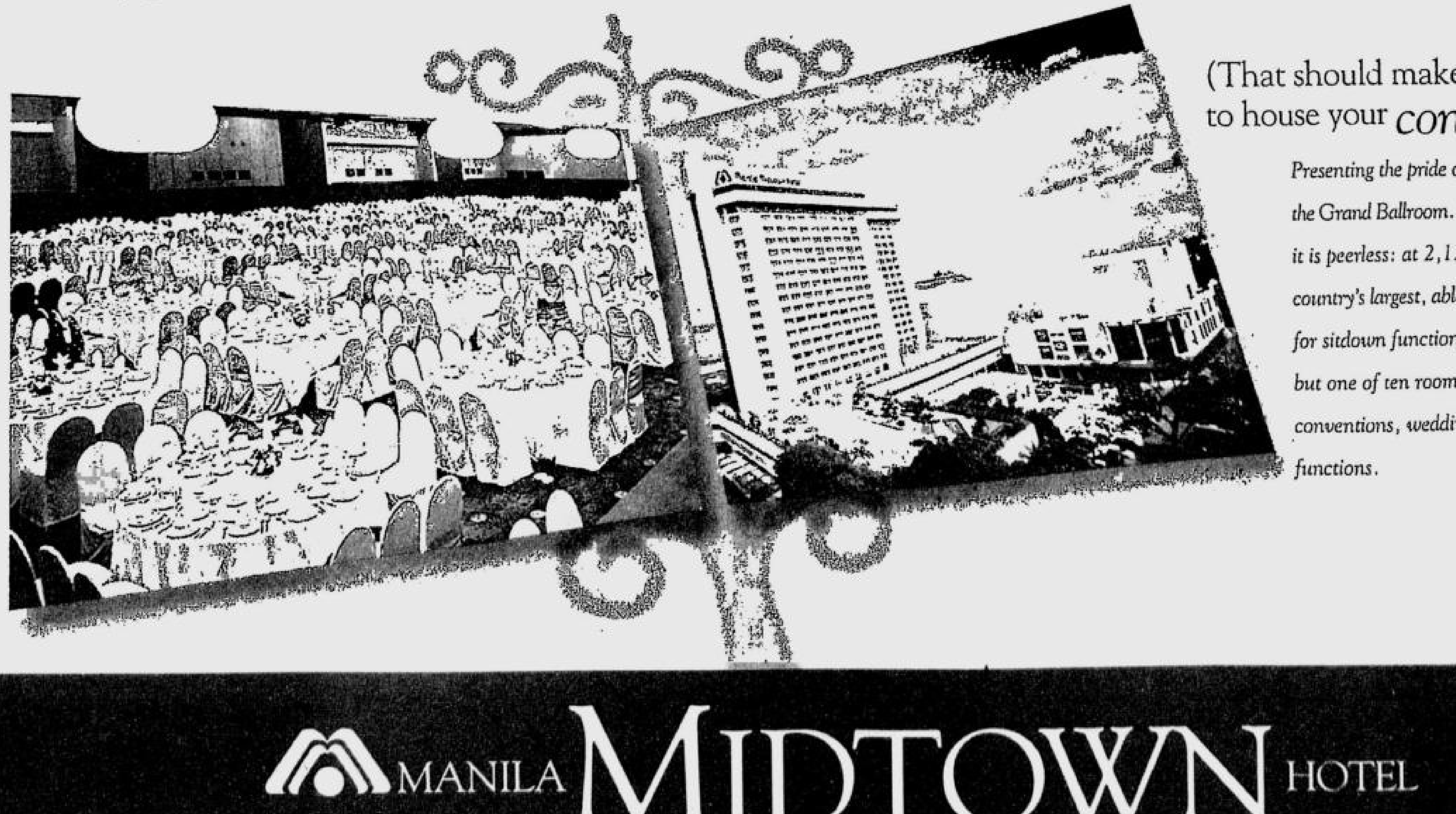

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Upon this rock, you will build your garden

ROCK and stone dish garden

(From page G1)

. to find out what was in store in these stone shops.

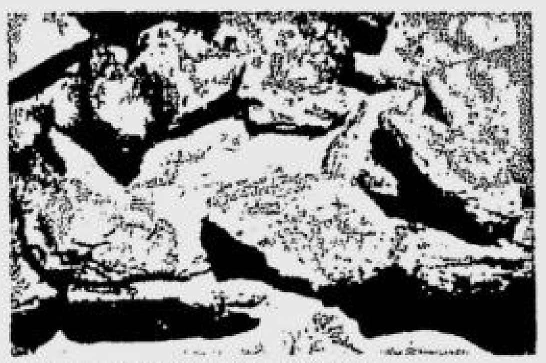
If you think, like we did, that ornamental and blooming plants are the only landscaping materials, think again. As we discovered, you could have a garden of rocks and stones with the barest minimum of plants.

"You can even have a plain rock and stone garden without plant," landscape expert Shirley Sanders said. The uses are virtually endless, she added. "You can have rock garden for grotto, Japanese garden which uses a lot of stones with varying sizes, Zen garden with sand that you need to comb to bring out the desired effect, plain stones and rocks for areas where plants don't survive, and pocket gardens inside the house."

Stones a-plenty

Needless to say, you'll never run out of materials to work on. The landscaping stone centers all over town have all the native stones and rocks you'll ever need.

No longer the gravel-and-sand stores that used to cater mainly to building constructions, these centers have evolved into rich troves of garden rocks and stones of all sizes, shapes and colors. You'll find most of these stores in small clusters around Cubao, Manila Seedling Bank, White Plains landscape center, near SM North, on Visayas Avenue, near Sta. Lucia mall in Cainta, by the roadside of Imus and Bacoor, and on the service road going to FTI.



BOULDERS for rocky gardening

PHOTOS: MIKE ALQUINTO

Boulders and monoliths dominated the stone lots we visited. These are the ones that are used for grottos, waterfalls, ponds, rock gardens, and "hardscapes."

Smaller rocks were also aplenty, no doubt because bonsai hobbyists use these a lot. And along with upright rocks were horizontal pieces that were obviously used as garden benches and focal points for oriental gardens.

Join the stone craze and use stones and rocks for outdoor accents

RED petrified stones from Bicol, Teresa rocks from Rizal and Mindoro flatstones

Over at Rona's Garden on Visayas Avenue were beautiful stepping stones that we imagined could add touches of drama in any garden. Obviously saleable in this shop were the *kodo* stones with jade-like color. They would be stunning in the aquarium or water dish garden. The color of these stones, we were told, come alive when they are wet.

Bulacan Garden in Manila Seedling Bank offered more choices compared to the main store in Cubao, which is better known for its pre-cast columns and garden pillars. We noted the flat stones that are favorite materials for walls and stone pavement. There were different slates and basalt rocks, too.

Piedra china was available at the Bonsai Park of bonsai master and landscaper Mody Manglicmot, Jr. He has stone lanterns also and limited selections of rocks for bonsai

Cypress has more variety

We found the widest selection of rocks and pebbles at Cypress Garden (now Cypress-Bonamite) at the old Sidcor plant market in Edsa, Cubao. Owner Nena Traballo identified each stone She also knew their rightful places in the garden. She and her husband have been in the landscaping business since 1974 after all, and they're one of the biggest names in garden rocks and stones. Their landscaping jobs include the Metro Park on Roxas Boulevard, Fontana resort, Marbella club and more.

PINK and beige Teresa rocks

"We are proud of our native rocks," said Nena. She hoped more Filipinos would discover the beauty of these natural materials. But right now, she said, many foreigners are more interested in the Philippine stones such as colorful pebbles, flat stones and petrified stones from Mindoro.

She gave us a tour of the Cypress display area where ornamental plants mixed in wild profusion with tiger stones, *aral-al* rocks from Bacolod, sandstones from Ilocos, pink Teresa rocks, Mt. Pinatubo materials, and red volcanic rocks from Los Baños.

There were two water gardens that displayed Philippine rocks to full advantage and proved that water brought out the best in stones. The waterfalls cascaded over pink and beige Teresa rocks, sandstones from Ilocos, boulders from Antipolo and red petrified rocks from Bicol.

"There is no limit to decorating with Philippine stones," Nena pointed out. The possibilities are indeed limitless with the assortment of sands, colored pebbles and petrified rocks available at the store. At the pebble boxes, we couldn't help scooping out handfuls of beautiful CRA pebbles from Palawan, Pugudpud pebbles, black stones from La Union and the yellow Mindanao sand.

"The black pebbles from La Union are gathered and gleaned from the beach by coastal families. It's a source of income for them," Nena explained. "And they like it when the waves are strong because the colored pebbles are washed ashore."

Not to worry, stone-picking and rock-gathering are covered by government permits to prevent abuses, Nena said. The industry also polices members of the Pebble Stone Exporters Association of the Philippines.

Folks who are interested to see what's in store in the stone stores are invited by Nena to visit Cypress in Banilad, Cebu and at the old Sidcor lot at Edsa, Cubao. Call 911-4997/9602.

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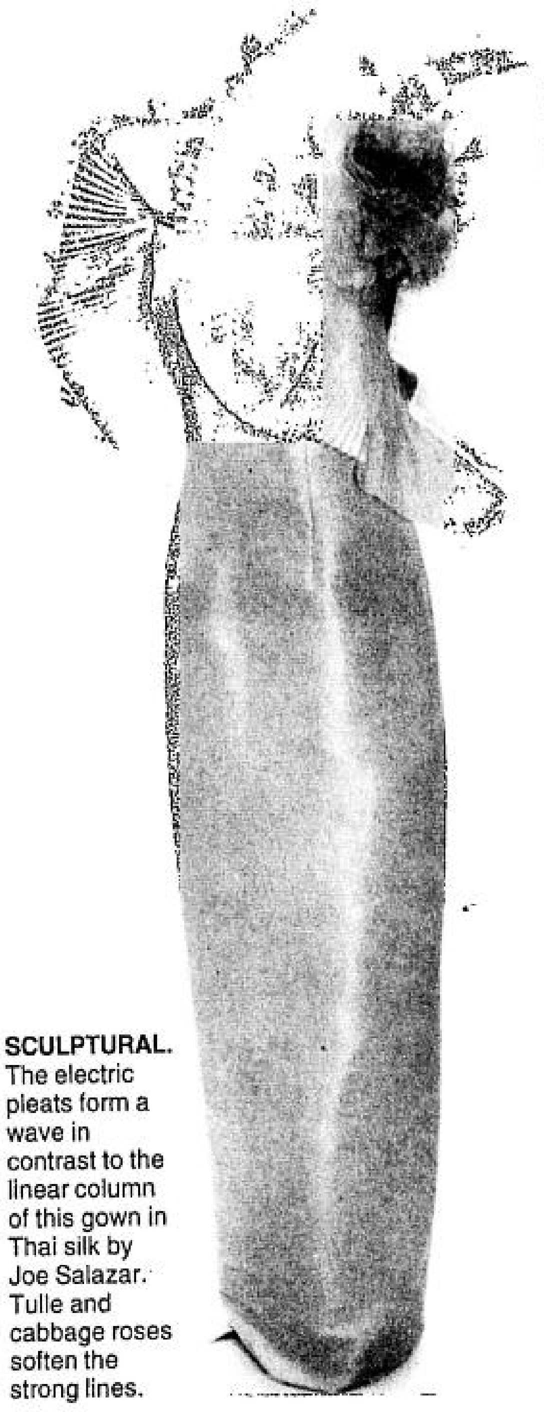
Assorted fashions for assorted events



SCULPTURAL. The electric pleats form a wave in contrast to the linear column of this gown in Thai silk by Joe Salazar. Tulle and cabbage roses soften the strong lines.

By Margie T. Estrella
Photos by Chito Vecina

THE LOBBY at the Peninsula didn't serve its famous ice cream concoctions last Thursday night. There was no brewed coffee either.

The usual tables and chairs were put away and replaced by a wide runway.

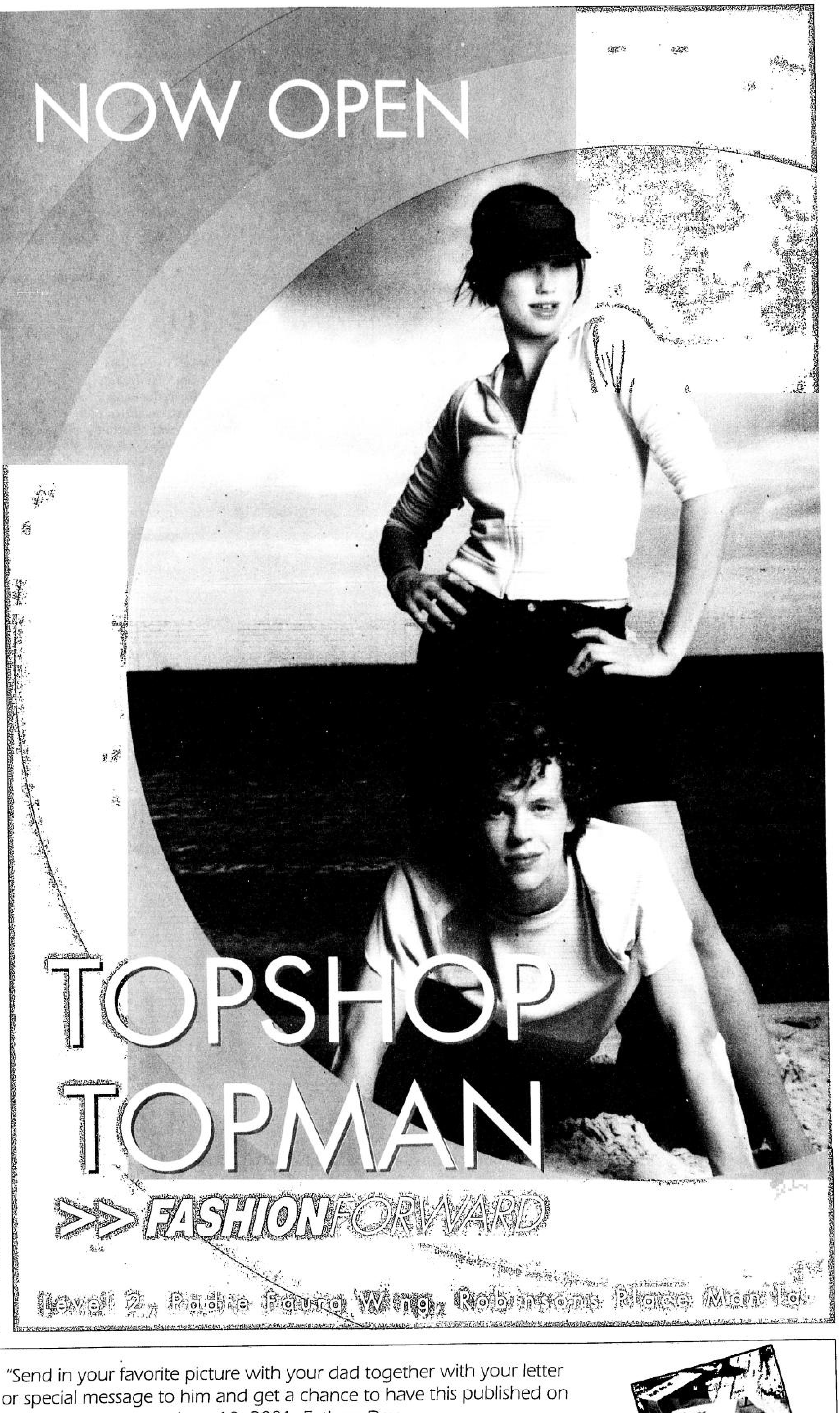
Row after row of empty chairs, which lined both sides of the catwalk, were quickly filled with people eagerly waiting to watch "Events at the Pen… Everything Under the Sun," a fashion show that encompassed the various events held at the hotel. From the simple day-to-day corporate atmosphere of the Pen to the most extravagant of affairs—the Peninsula Wedding—the show featured the diverse designs of Mike de la Rosa, Frederick Peralta and Joe Salazar. Each of them had something different to offer. Some pieces could easily be worn right off the runway while others tapped for more fantastic affairs. Mixing fashion with the interludes of live music and presentations by the Philippine Ballet Theatre, the show was a display of beauty and performance.

Corporate look

De la Rosa came up with his corporate concept by working around the skirt, the shift dress and trousers. He presented a new look in the corporate scene by steering clear of the typical gray, blue and black. Instead, he gave his two-piece suits and shift dresses a lighter mood using shades of maroon and cream. The suits were form-fitting yet comfortable. Straight-cut pants, which cut right at the ankle paired with heels, made the legs appear slimmer. A-line skirts, whether knee-length or below the knee, looked feminine and professional. Though most of the suits were monochromatic, they were easily complemented by accent pieces such as a printed neckerchief or blouse. The great thing about these pieces is that they can easily be matched with other clothes.

De la Rosa wanted his clothes to be used for work but kept in mind the need for versatility. According to him, casual dinners and after-work get-togethers can be attended straight from the office by simply removing the jacket from the suit, while adding jewelry to doll up a basic dress allows it to be cocktail-ready. De la Rosa's collection is not only sleek and sophisticated, but will make your wardrobe go that extra mile.

ASSORTED/ p.H2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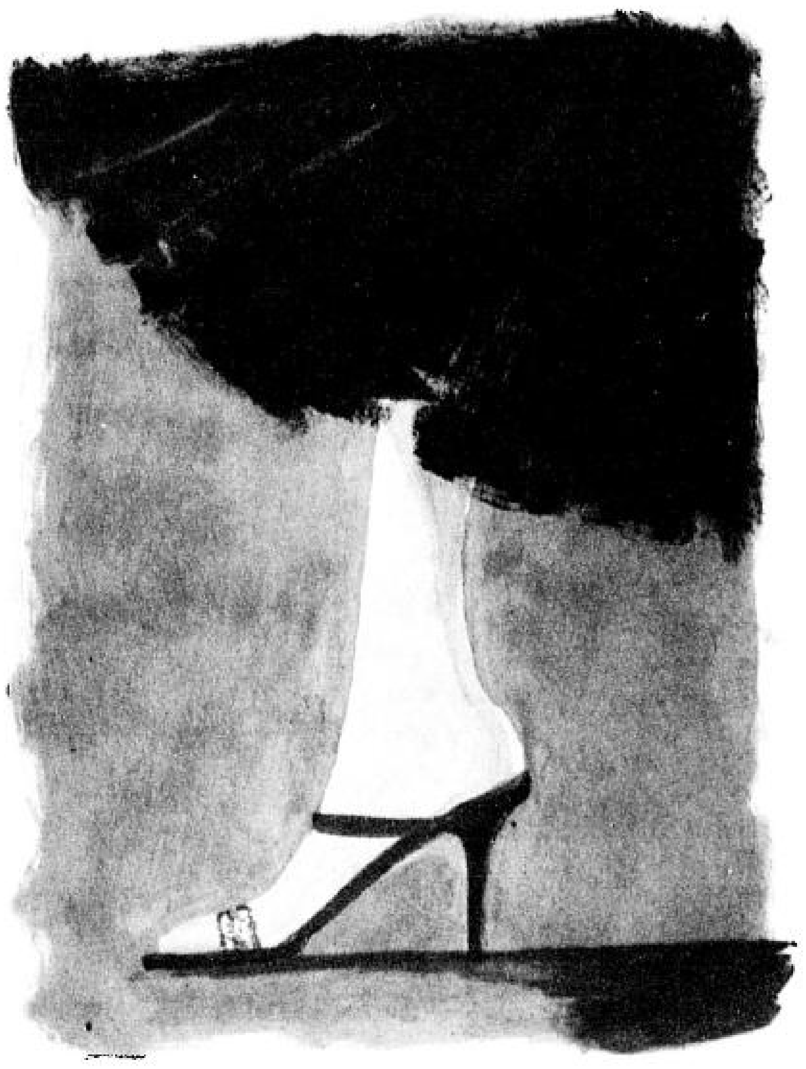
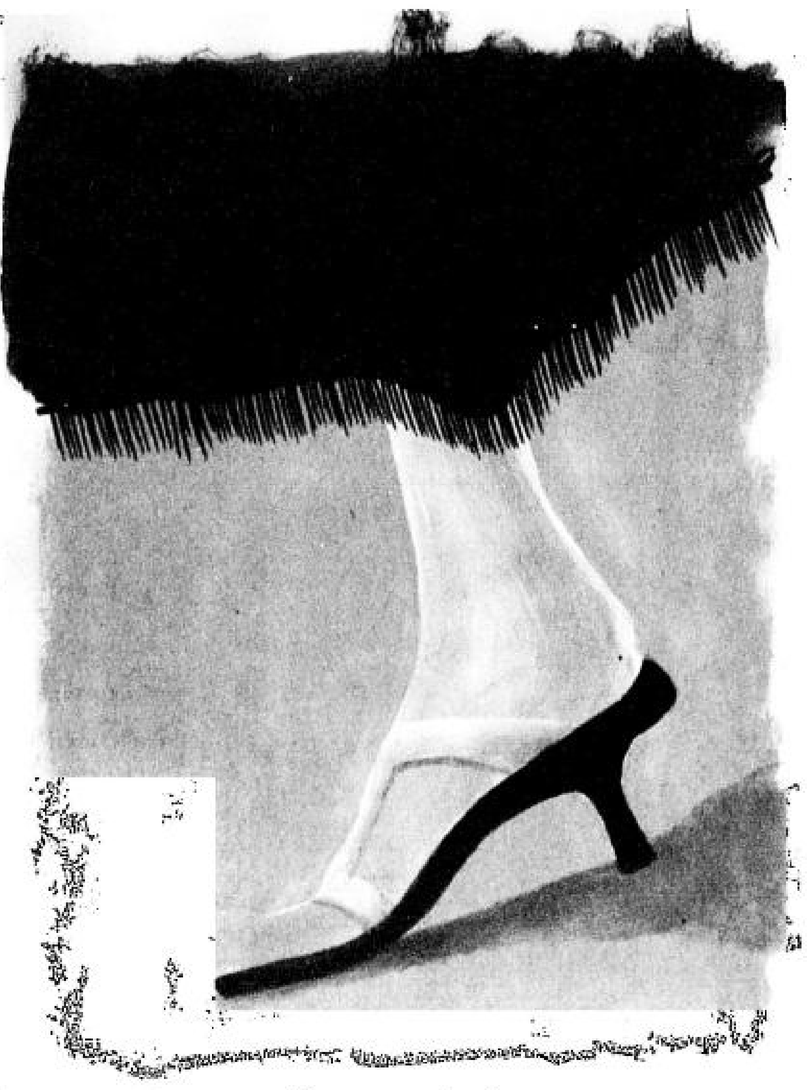
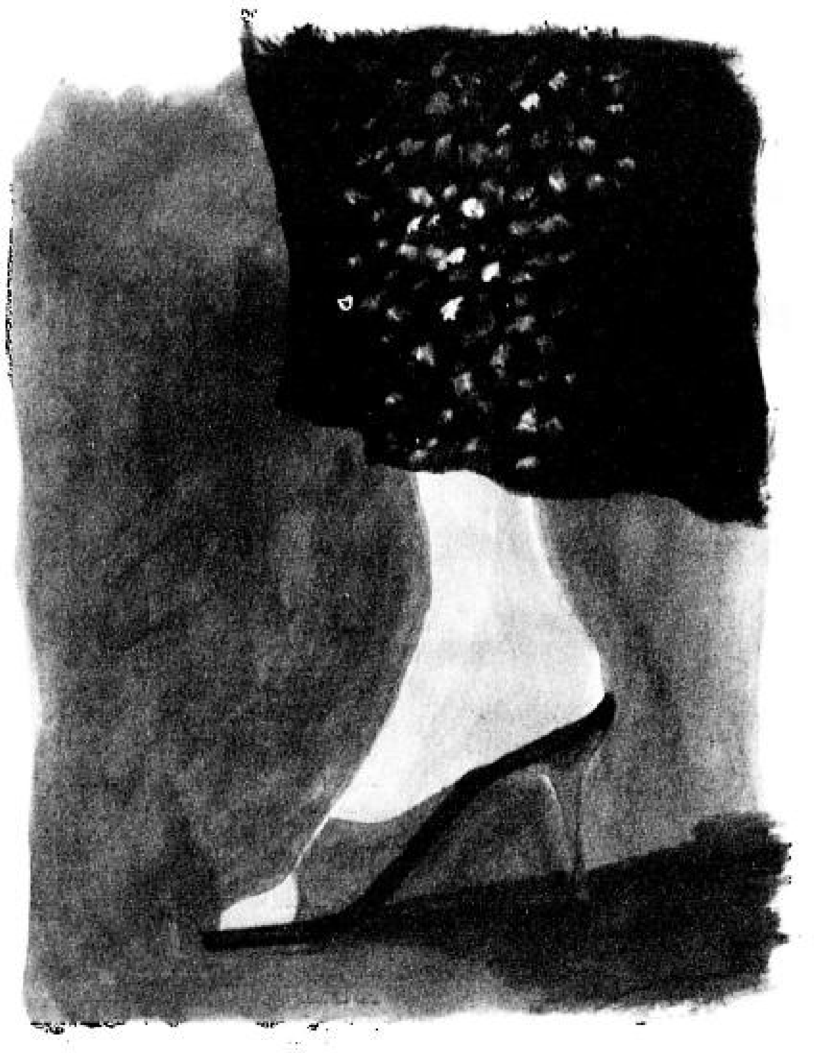


HAVANA. Black satin straps with covered heels



JABBER. *Platino* nappa with morospray heels

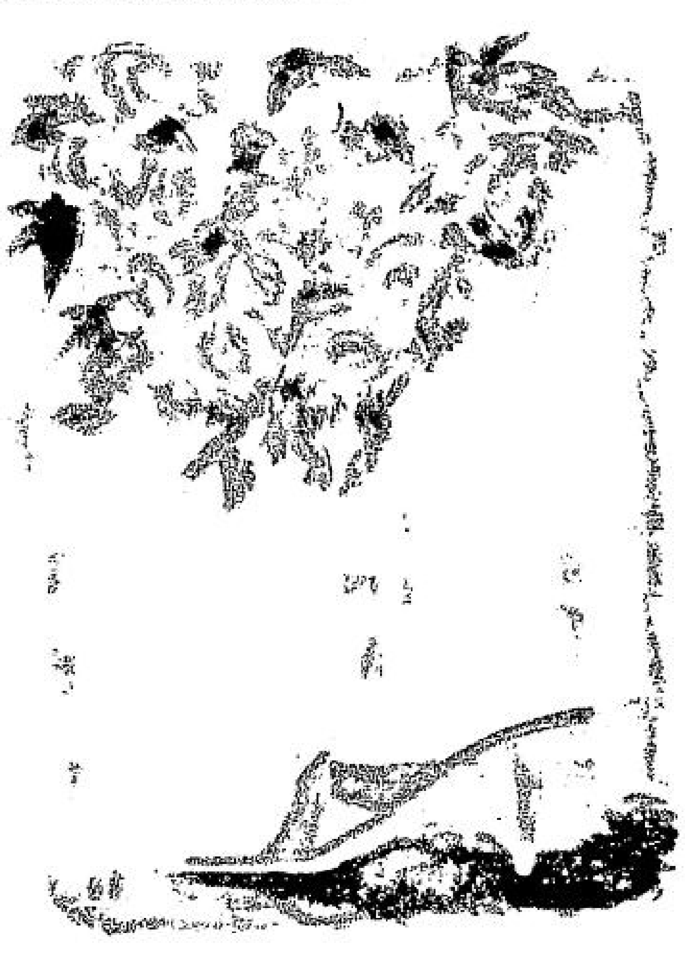


GLAMOUR. *Fuvia karung* material with stacked heel

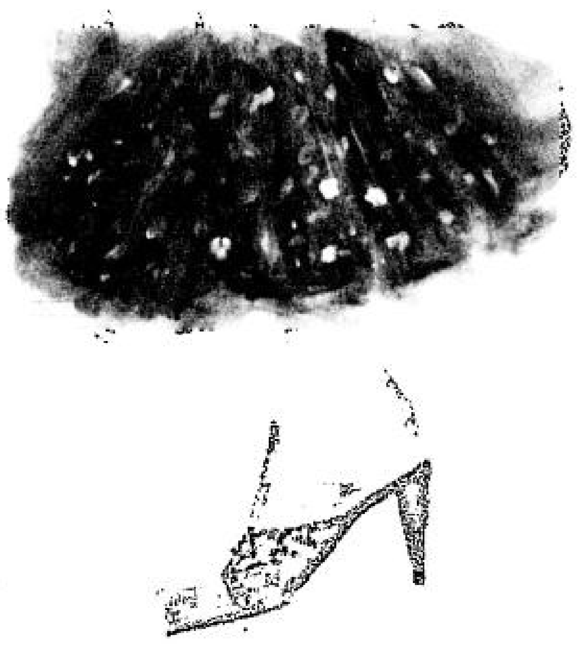
Stick to stilettos

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JAMES REYES

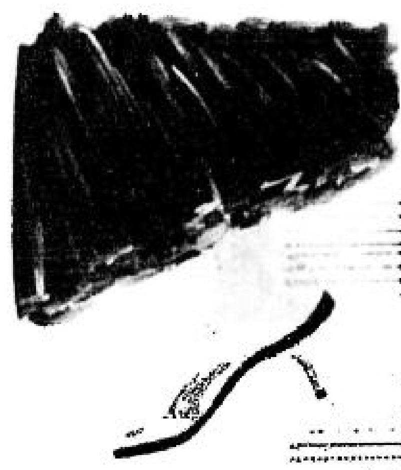
THE RAINY days have come, but that doesn't mean the fashionable woman is going to cover her manicured toes. Sexy stilettos are the done thing this season for day or for night. They're so pointed you could kill a mugger with them.



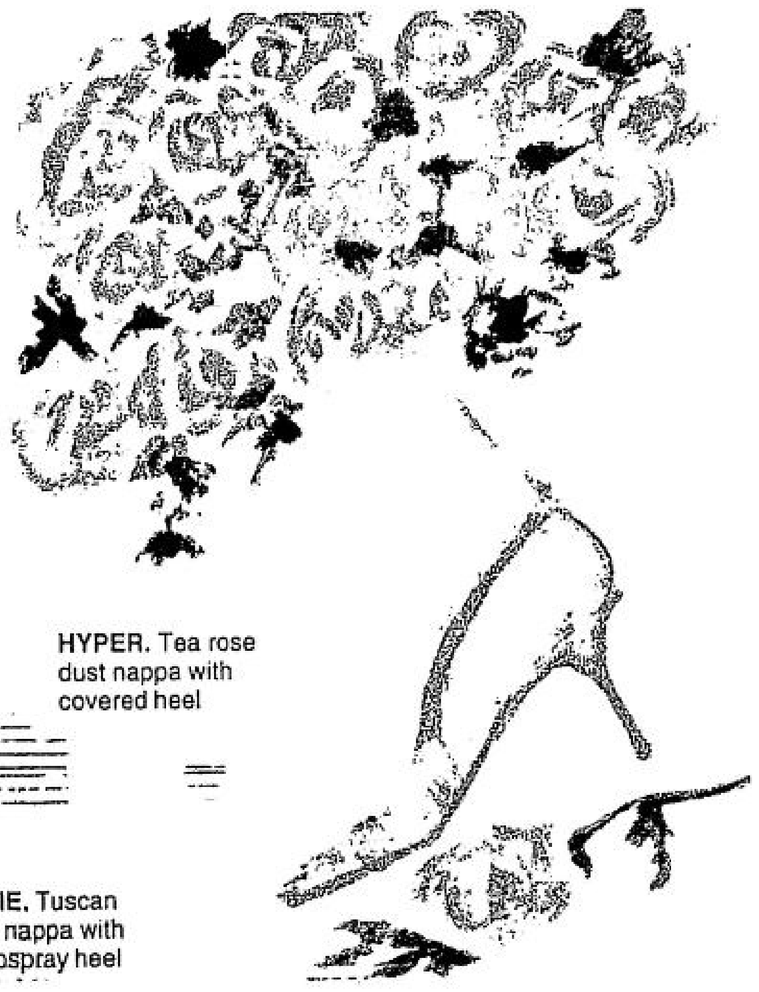
MIRA. Seagrass suede with natural cork heel



MIMOSA. Mule-type made of breeze raffia with covered heel



JOLIE. Tuscan gold nappa with morospray heel



HYPER. Tea rose dust nappa with covered heel

SHOES BY ANNE KLEIN, MIX BOUTIQUE, GREENBELT MALL

Assorted fashions for assorted events

A show at The Peninsula married the talents of Mike de la Rosa, Frederick Peralta and Joe Salazar in coming up with many-angled fashion takes on the five-star hotel's multifarious events

WILMA Doesnt wears a strapless gown in dupioni silk with intertwined corded lace by Peralta.

(From page H1)

After dark

But there are some events where day-into-night clothes may still be too informal. Grand affairs call for equally grand attire. Peralta brought back the idea of fairy-tale allure in the "Peninsula After Dark."

During the show, Peralta's gowns revealed that there is indeed a part of a woman that dreams of dressing up and taking center stage. His dresses actualized this dream with the explosion of colorful prints and bold solids as well as the decorative use of sequins and beads.

Given that his inspiration comes from every woman who attends formal balls, he brought into play the silhouette of big ballroom skirts reminiscent of the debutante's gown in order to give volume to a bigger space. These dresses were certainly meant for dancing till the wee hours of the morn.

Peralta's enchanting collection included a fire engine red ball gown with a sequined top. Accompanied by a red and gold necklace, the gown attained a completely pulled together look from head to toe. Also in the collection was a magnificent floral sequined dress. The floral pattern made of sequins in shades of pink, green, violet and red completely covered the black background of the dress. Hugging close to the body, the dress possessed both elegance and magnetism.

Although there were also dresses in black, Peralta still made sure that they were out of the ordinary like the black ball gown with a sheer top and gold sequins worn by Wilma Doesnt. He placed no limit on his creative ability and his ideas showed the beauty that can be achieved if one allows the creative juices to overflow. "Fashion shouldn't be boring; it should be entertaining," he said.

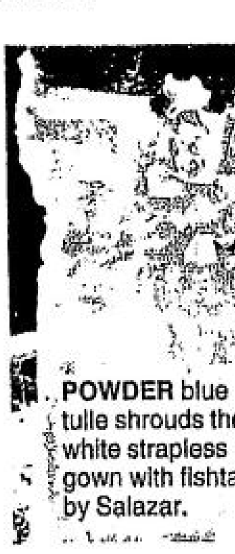
Wedding

When it comes to wedding preparations, the Peninsula staffers are professional. They can plan everything for the couple-to-be from venue to vintage wine. But wedding gowns are another issue. The fashion show's final act combined the collections of De la Rosa, Peralta with a finale by Joe Salazar. All three designers had their individual take on the ideal wedding dress.

CREPE rayon simple bias cut gown with a tail by De la Rosa

SEE-THROUGH beaded lace gown with no lining by Peralta

PRINTED chiffon burgundy accents with ring prints in pastel pink and lilac go with the wine suits by De la Rosa.



POWDER blue tulle shrouds the white strapless gown with fishtail by Salazar.

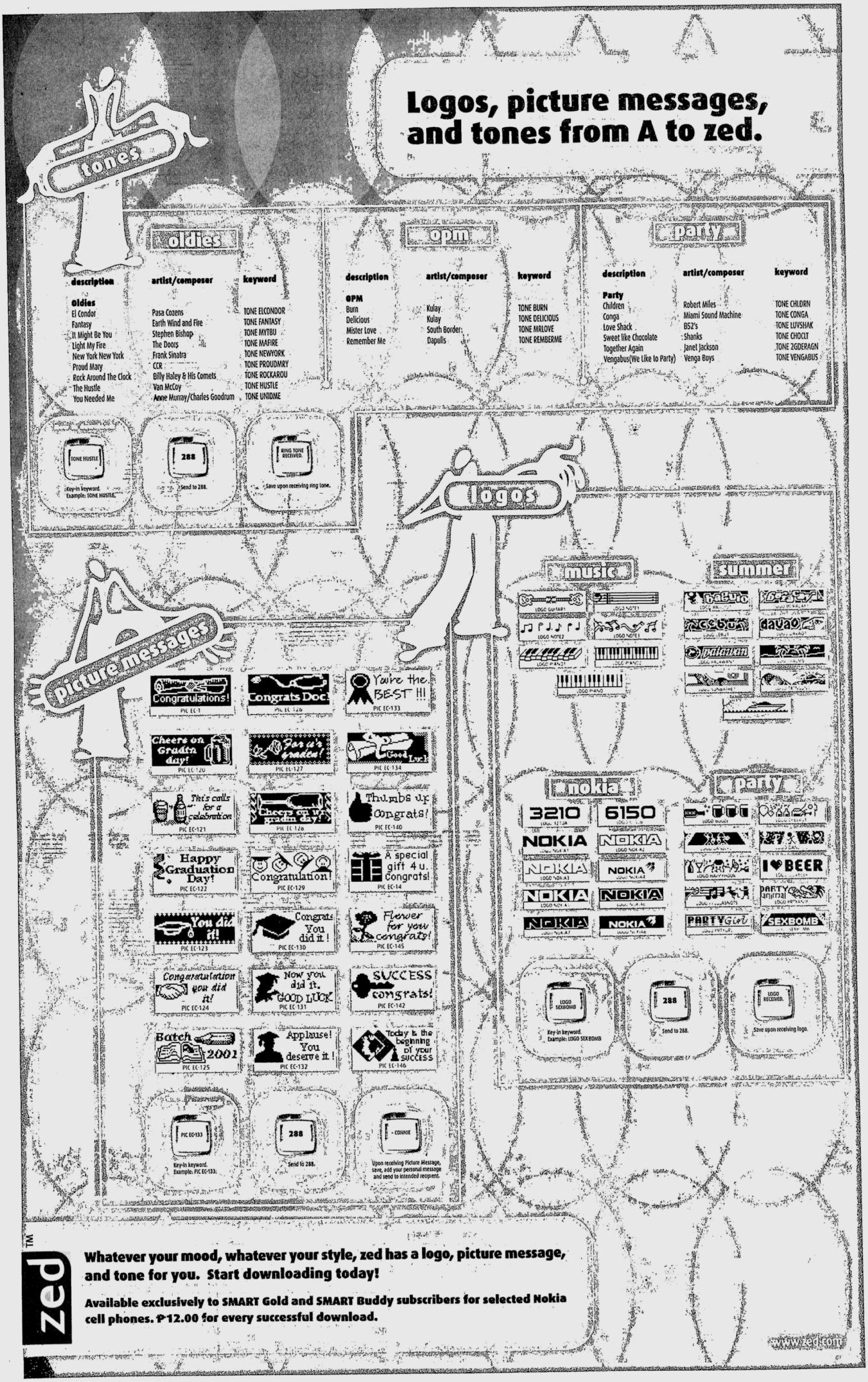
De la Rosa was inspired by the "beauty and simplicity of the bias-cut." His deep-V backless long satin dress with spaghetti straps demonstrates his less is more philosophy. Complete with a matching eggshell satin jacket and delicate beaded hat, this dress captured the essence of an intimate ceremony.

Like his "After Dark" collection, Peralta's wedding gowns were rich in fabric and full of detail. Among his dresses was a ball gown skirt, which contained green, orange and yellow sequins that slowly made its way up to the top of the dress in full bloom. It seemed the type of dress that one would wear in a splendid garden-theme wedding.

Peralta was not hindered in any way from mixing different colors and textures together. He said, "As an artist, you have to think in those terms, to allow yourself to innovate and go beyond the limit." This outlook was very much reflected in his designs, which were fantasies, actualized.

Lastly, Salazar presented his own bridal collection. He integrated several nature themes in his designs. His white bustier gown encircled with powder blue rosettes made the bride look as if she were embraced by the sky. The white backless electric pleated dress could be compared to the graceful wings of a swan. There was also a vivid yellow spaghetti strap dress, which was quite modern with its bright pattern of multicolor roses.

Salazar obviously wanted his creations donned by the modern-day romantic—a liberated woman, amid a garden of roses.



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description	artist/composer	keyword
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It Might Be You	Stephen Bishop	TONE MYTBU
Light My Fire	The Doors	TONE MAFIRE
New York New York	Frank Sinatra	TONE NEWYORK
Proud Mary	CCR	TONE PROUDMRY
Rock Around The Clock	Billy Haley & His Comets	TONE ROCKAROU
The Hustle	Van McCoy	TONE HUSTLE
You Needed Me	Anne Murray/Charles Goodrum	TONE UNIDME

opm

description	artist/composer	keyword
OPM		
Burn	Kulay	TONE BURN
Delicious	Kulay	TONE DELICIOUS
Mister Love	South Border	TONE MRLOVE
Remember Me	Dapulis	TONE REMBERME

party

description	artist/composer	keyword
Party		
Children	Robert Miles	TONE CHLDRN
Conga	Miami Sound Machine	TONE CONGA
Love Shack	B52's	TONE LUVSHAK
Sweet like Chocolate	Shanks	TONE CHOCLT
Together Again	Janet Jackson	TONE 2GDERAGN
Vengabus(We Like to Party)	Venga Boys	TONE VENGABUS

TONE HUSTLE

Key-in keyword.
Example: TONE HUSTLE.

288

Send to 288.

RING TONE RECEIVED.

Save upon receiving ring tone.

logos

music

LOGO GUITAR1
LOGO NOTE1
LOGO NOTE2
LOGO PIANO1
LOGO PIANO2
LOGO PIANO

summer

baguio
cebu
davao
palawan

nokia

3210
6150
NOKIA
LOGO NOKIA1
NOKIA
LOGO NOKIA2
NOKIA
LOGO NOKIA3
NOKIA
LOGO NOKIA4
NOKIA
NOKIA
NOKIA
NOKIA

party

LOGO HAPPYHOUR
I ♥ BEER
PARTY animal
PARTY Girl
SEXBOMB

LOGO SEXBOMB

Key-in keyword.
Example: LOGO SEXBOMB

288

Send to 288.

LOGO RECEIVED.

Save upon receiving logo.

picture messages

Congratulations!
PIC EC-1

Congrats Doc
PIC EC-126

You're the BEST !!!
PIC EC-133

Cheers on Gradtn day!
PIC EC-120

For u's gradtn!
PIC EC-127

Good Luck
PIC EC-134

This calls for a celebration
PIC EC-121

Cheers on ur gradtn day!
PIC EC-128

Thumbs up Congrats!
PIC EC-140

Happy Graduation Day!
PIC EC-122

Congratulation!
PIC EC-129

A special gift 4 u. Congrats!
PIC EC-14

You did it!
PIC EC-123

Congrats You did it!
PIC EC-130

Flower for you congrats!
PIC EC-145

Congaratulation you did it!
PIC EC-124

Now you did it. GOOD LUCK
PIC EC-131

SUCCESS congrats!
PIC EC-142

Batch 2001
PIC EC-125

Applause! You deserve it!
PIC EC-132

Today is the beginning of your SUCCESS
PIC EC-146

PIC EC-133

Key-In keyword.
Example: PIC EC-133.

288

Send to 288.

- CONNIE

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DEAR Tita Dulce,

Four years ago, when I was studying abroad, I attended a birthday party during which I met a very charming young man who started to court me. Destiny really takes its course. Both of us came back to the Philippines at about the same time and then we got married.

For the past two years we have had a happy life together, but there have been times when problems come up. They test our patience with each other and just the other day, I realized I might be happier if I looked for another job instead of continuing where I am now because part of my duties cause some of our disagreements.

Can you tell us please where we can go for marriage counseling? Since both of us studied abroad, we have lost track. Before our problems get deeper, we need help. He is also willing to undergo marriage guidance counseling. Thank you and God bless.

G.S.P.

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

You have good timing, because an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure. And you are not the only ones needing some help. Many married couples face a lot of problems nowadays.

Retrovaille (Rediscovery) is ran by the Columban Fathers. Their address is 1857 Singalong corner Remedios Streets, Malate, Manila. Fr. David Clay, MSSD, is in charge. For counseling, just give a donation. They hold marriage encounter seminars, the next one slated on June 15-17. The charge is P3,500 per couple, for bed and board. For further information, call 523-3361 or 525-0308. Look for Lily Marcos or Helen Pacheco.

The Center for Family Ministry is at the Ateneo de Manila campus, Loyola Heights, QC, tel. 426-4289. Counseling is by appointment, and they receive donations.

By the way, part of their marriage encounter services at the Ateneo de Manila campus is Discovery Weekend, for those planning to get married, held on the first weekend of every month, from Friday evening to Sunday after lunch. The charge is P3,500 per couple for board and lodging and handouts. Mr. and Ms Mark Querubin are in charge. You can call Ms Querubin, a psychiatrist, at 740-1965.

At the Edsa Shrine, they also hold counseling, not just for marriage problems, but those with other relationship situations, homosexuality and just about anything when one needs a shoulder to cry on. Priests are available on some days and you have to call for an appointment. However, lay counselors are there. Call 631-7151/3815. Ask to speak to Mila del Fonso.

For those who cannot leave their homes and would greatly appreciate being able to air their problems, you can call the light of Jesus Counseling Center at 412-2372/73. Telephone counselors are there from 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Personal counseling are also available, but by appointment. The address of this center is 54-A Chicago St., Cubao, QC.

On old coins

CAN I get a copy of your response to the query as to where to sell old coins? Or just please give me the date of the issue where I can find it. Thanks.

JAMES KEVIN

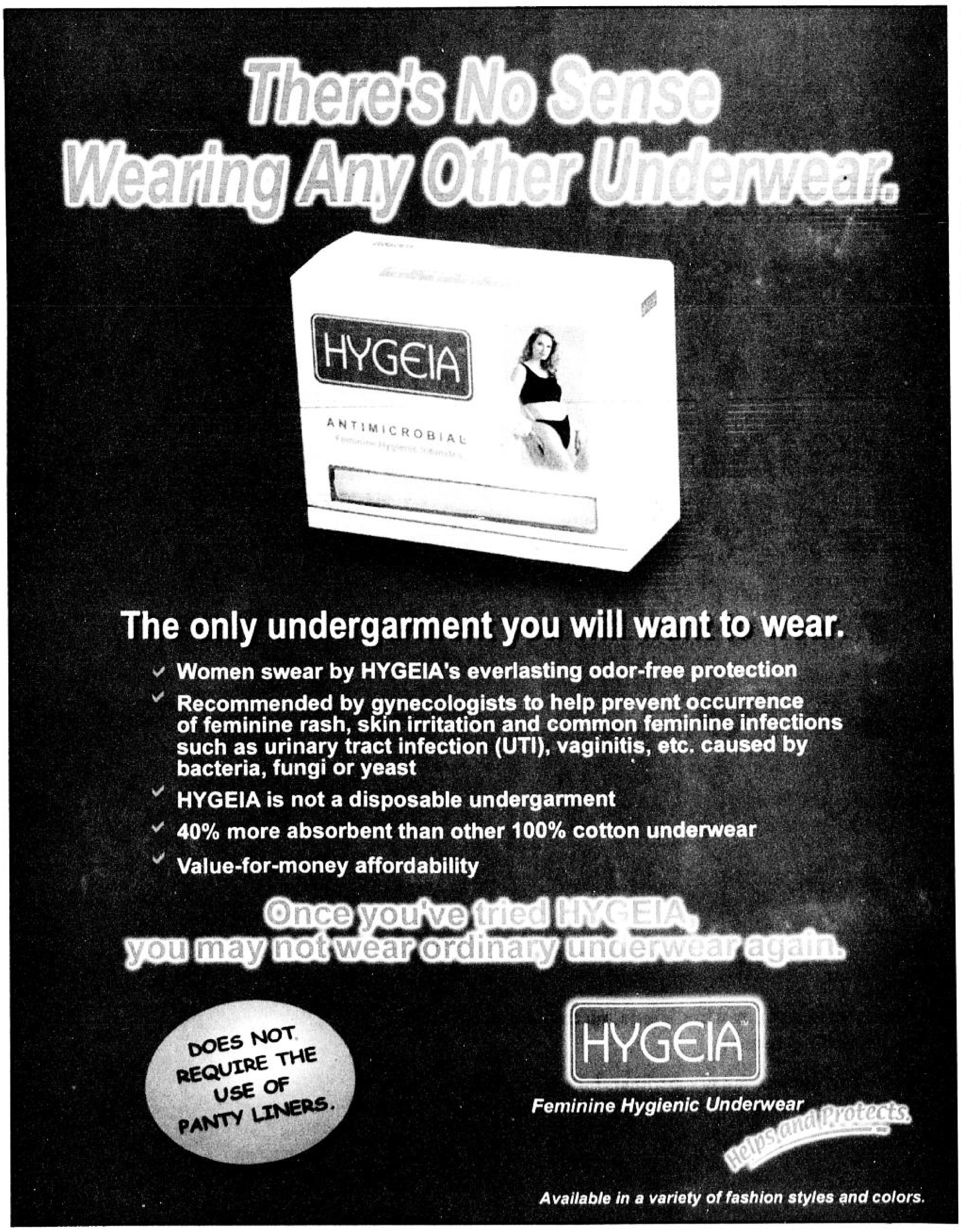
I would have e-mailed you the answer but your e-mail address is blurred, so here it is: 1184-F A. Mabini St., Manila, tel. 524-0548. Mr. Albino Quiban is the previous president of Bank Notes Society of the Philippines.

* * *

Dear Malou (who expressed gratitude so eloquently),

Hija, can you please write me again? At times I have short memory and will appreciate your clarification. Thank you.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City



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Robinsons presents 'Pearl Harbor' series of events

THE MEMORY of Pearl Harbor comes alive at Robinsons Malls until June 15.

Watch out for the series of exciting events that will unfold during this three-week period, copresented with 94.7 Mellow Touch, Buenavista Int'l. Pictures and Robinsons Movieworld, National Geographic Channel Asia and International Plastic Modelers Society.

The event kicks off today with "A Show of Force Exhibit" series, which will be held at Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place Manila. Shoppers, hobbyists, collectors and aficionados alike are invited to view the sights and sounds of an extensive display of World War II models of fighter planes and ships by the International Plastic Modelers Society, back to back with a photo exhibit, audio-video show and open-book display mounted by the National Geographic Channel and The Philippine Heritage Foundation. Photographer Bob Razon of Bob's Photography Studio will also exhibit his rare photos of Manila's celebrities from the glamorous Pearl Harbor era.

Also today, the Robinsons Malls, together with Mellow Touch 94.7, invite everyone to join in the "Pearl Harbor in Love and War," a love story writing contest. This contest is open to all letter writers, male and female, young and old alike, who wish to narrate their true-to-life experiences during the war era. The winning entry will be featured in the INQUIRER and will be read over Mellow Touch 94.7. Deadline for submission of entries will be on June 6. Three winning entries will be chosen with free trips to Corregidor awaiting the grand prize winner.

On June 2, fanatics are invited to assemble in full team costumes and enlist in "Counter-strike Combat," a very popular network computer game, for a chance to win prizes and as much as P50,000. The challenge will take place at the Fountain Area of Robinsons Galleria, starting at 10 a.m. Interested individuals must form teams composed of five players and should register at the following Pearl Harbor Recruitment Centers at Robinsons Galleria: Compass Internet Café, Zu Fei, Hobby Café, Premium Logic, or log on to Pinoy Exchangce.com. Each recruitment center will hold a pre-qualifying tournament tomorrow when 10 teams will be chosen to represent their store/outlet for the grand finals.

The glamour of yesteryears will come alive in "Pearl Harbor—1940s Glam Fashion," which will be staged with Robinsons Department Store and Robinsons mall tenants on June 3 at the Fountain Area of Robinsons Galleria.

On June 4, watch out for the "Pearl Harbor" advance screening at the new Robinsons Movieworld Galleria Cinema 1 at 7:30 p.m. Get the chance to be one of the first to see the biggest motion picture event of the year. Regular screening will be on June 6.

LA LIGA LANGHAP-SARAP

OPISYAL NA PAHAYAGAN NG IKA-400 JOLLIBEE
MAYO 25, 2001

HISTORIC 400th JOLLIBEE STORE OPENS!

Jollibee's unparalleled leadership earns another proud conquest for the Filipino: Jollibee now has 400 stores in the Philippines!

In the historic site of Muralla, Intramuros rises a new monument dedicated to the triumph of the Filipino people - the 400th store of Jollibee. Inaugurated yesterday, the Walled City-inspired structure towers over Muralla Street, flanked by archaic universities Lyceum, Mapua, and Colegio de San Juan de Letran.

Taking pride in its 100% Filipino roots, Jollibee celebrates not just an opening of a new store but also a commemoration of another icon of Philippine pride.

Past meets present

Manila, particularly Intramuros (meaning "within the walls"), occupies a significant place in Philippine history. The Spaniards built the Walled City along the southern bank of Pasig River in the 16th Century as a defense against foreign invaders. The city fortress included monasteries, churches and nunneries. Located on the northwest corner of Intramuros is Fort Santiago, which served as the Headquarters of the Spanish forces. It is where the National Hero Dr. Jose Rizal was detained before being martyred.

Nostalgic manifestations of Philippine history have been translated into the 400th Store of Jollibee to become a visible symbol of cultural heritage. The architecture of the store was inspired by the time-honored "bahay na bato", the design typical of the Spanish colonial period. A functional dome was thoughtfully integrated to the idyllic structure to create a focal point of interest. Building elements such as stone walls, steep terracotta tile roofing, a foyer, and canopies supported by wrought iron grills were chosen to capture the essence of 16th century Manila.

The new Jollibee structure is a reminder in its own way of how life should be - pressing forward to the future while preserving the past that embodies the familial spirit and hospitality of the Philippines.

Undisputed leadership

Jollibee has grown to be so well loved that every time a new store is opened, especially overseas, Filipinos form long queues to the store without fail. There is much excitement, for Jollibee is not just a place where they feel at home; it is a stronghold of heritage, a monument of Pinoy victory.

But Jollibee's leadership is not only reflected by market share (the company enjoys more than half of the entire fast food industry); numerous local and global awards attest to this as well. For three years in a row, Jollibee has been cited by the Far Eastern Economic Review as one of Asia's leading companies, topping the Philippine list in its most recent study. Jollibee has grown to be the organization that others try to emulate, surpassing property, banking, media, and namebrand restaurant moguls. For many years it has consistently been acclaimed as the trailblazer of innovativeness in responding to customer needs, long-term corporate vision, and providing high quality products. And in the latest ratings, it has ranked among the top five most financially sound corporations, a group dominated by financial institutions for the longest time.

In addition, Jollibee has been recognized as the No. 1 Food Company in Asia by *Euromoney*; the Best Managed Company in the Philippines by *Asiamoney*; and one of the Most Admired Companies in Asia by *Asian Business*.

Recipe for success

To succeed in the food business, one must sell very good food; otherwise competitors will eat up the business. Indeed, langhap-sarap food is Jollibee's greatest strength, and the company's dedication to maintain product superiority has kept it on top.

Jollibee strives to give customers excellent products that suit their taste buds. Every year, Jollibee develops new products and improves on all-time favorites such as Chickenjoy, Spaghetti Special, french fries and burgers to ensure a dynamic and exciting menu lineup. The new Champ for instance is now bigger with a 1/3-pound patty made of 100% pure beef, with a smoked flavor. New product bestsellers such as Honey Beef Rice, Fish n' Fries, Shanghai Rolls, and the delectable dessert Swirly Bitz have continuously kept Jollibee's menu innovative and dynamic.

To make these delicious treats, Jollibee also employs strict quality control. In fact, Jollibee is the only quick-service restaurant with an ISO 9002 Certification for its frozen patty line.

What makes Jollibee's langhap-sarap food even more appetizing is value for money - the company prices its products well within the means of the customers.

But the Jollibee experience does not stop there. Ms. Regina Navarrete, VP for Marketing of Jollibee Foods Corporation, stresses that "It is not enough to serve the customer delicious, affordable food. High standards of service and store condition should also be practiced to ensure that the customer has a delightful dining experience every time he or she visits Jollibee."

As a corporate citizen, Jollibee is also committed to serve the community it belongs to. The company not only nourishes bodies but also people's spirits through countless socio-civic projects.

Outstanding product taste and quality, value for money, superior customer service, and beyond-the-counter service through relevant projects. These are what make the Jollibee experience complete. These are what endear Jollibee to the customers, what keep them coming back to its stores.

A triumph for and of the Filipino

Jollibee dedicates its continuous success to those who have supported the company from the very start - the Filipino people. "The Filipino customer will remain the source of our inspiration and will always have our unending dedication and loyalty," says Mr. Tony Tan Caktiong, President of Jollibee Foods Corporation.

That is why the company opens more and more stores, to share the langhap-sarap goodness with more and more Filipinos. Jollibee is present from as far north as Tuguegarao in Luzon to as far south as Zamboanga in Mindanao. It is now in almost all urban centers in the country, and its arrival in an area is regarded by many as a sign of progress. **From the first store in Cubao to now the 400th in Intramuros, a Jollibee store has been considered by Filipinos as a symbol of resilience, a herald of victory, a testimony that the Filipino is no pushover.** ***Ang Jollibee ay Sagisag ng Tagumpay ng Pilipino.***

And as Jollibee announces the opening of its historic 400th store in the Philippines, it also proclaims more than anything else that when it comes to delighting and giving pride to customers, the Filipino is triumphant 400 times, and counting.

Celebrate With Us !

Here's what's in store for our customers on Opening Day:

- *Be the 1st or the 400th customer and win a special prize!*
- *Witness a grand parade of gaily decorated floats!*
- *Listen to classical Filipino music performed live by a string quartet as you dine!*

A special project of the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Taste that Conquered the Nation

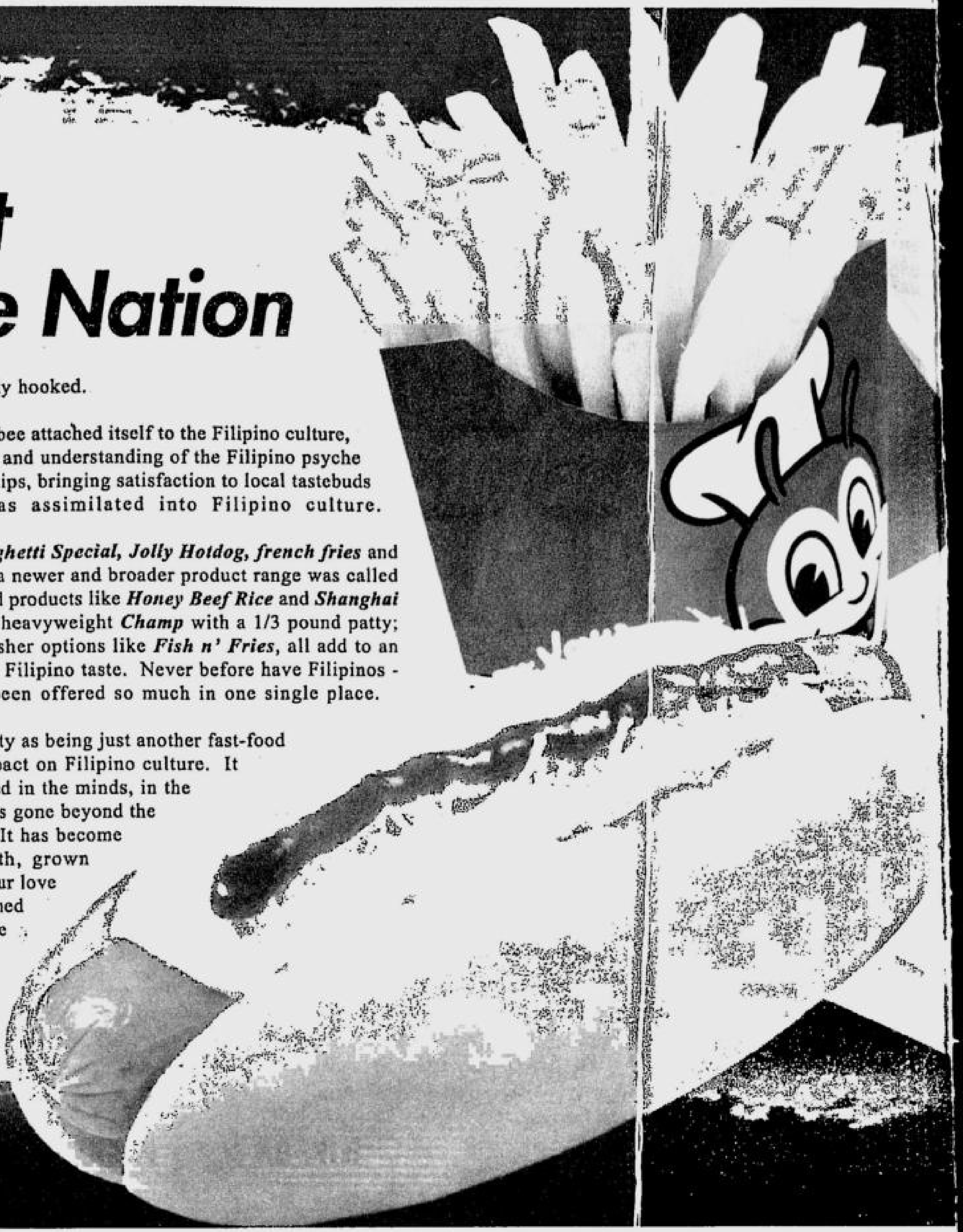
It came without warning. And we were instantly hooked.

Twenty-three years and 400 branches ago, Jollibee attached itself to the Filipino culture, forever sealing our gustatory fate. Jollibee's keen insight and understanding of the Filipino psyche has brought its promise of "langhap-sarap" to everyone's lips, bringing satisfaction to local tastebuds everywhere. From that moment on, Jollibee was assimilated into Filipino culture.

While all-time favorites like ***Chickenjoy, Spaghetti Special, Jolly Hotdog, french fries*** and ***Yumburgers*** still continue to lord over Filipino palates, a newer and broader product range was called for to bring more excitement and variety. More rice-based products like ***Honey Beef Rice*** and ***Shanghai Rolls***; newer burgers like ***Amazing Aloha,*** and the new heavyweight ***Champ*** with a 1/3 pound patty; more flavorful desserts like ***Swirly Bitz***; and newer, fresher options like ***Fish n' Fries***, all add to an already impressive lineup of treats synonymous with the Filipino taste. Never before have Filipinos - children, families, and adults from all walks of life been offered so much in one single place.

Jollibee today has transcended its role in society as being just another fast-food chain. Never has anything made such a significant impact on Filipino culture. It has become a cultural phenomenon, completely ingrained in the minds, in the hearts, in the lives of every Filipino. "Langhap-sarap" has gone beyond the excellence of food and service that Jollibee stands for. It has become an experience that every Filipino has grown up with, grown accustomed to, and loved: a communal manifestation of our love of family and friends. No longer is "langhap-sarap" confined to food. No longer is "langhap-sarap" just a Jollibee experience. "Langhap-sarap" has become a genuine Filipino experience.

It's a wonderful time to be a Filipino. And with Jollibee around, the experience promises to be a better-tasting one.



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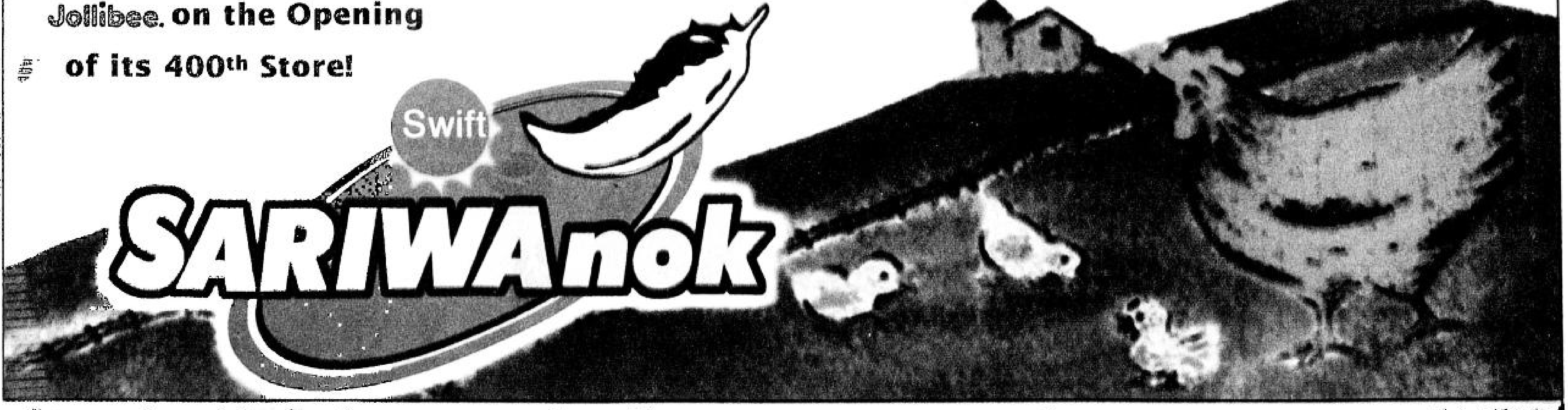
Swift
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Jollibee.

To our esteemed business partner,

CONGRATULATIONS

on the opening of your 400th Jollibee outlet!

May our long-term alliance be further
strengthened in the years to come

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cook's

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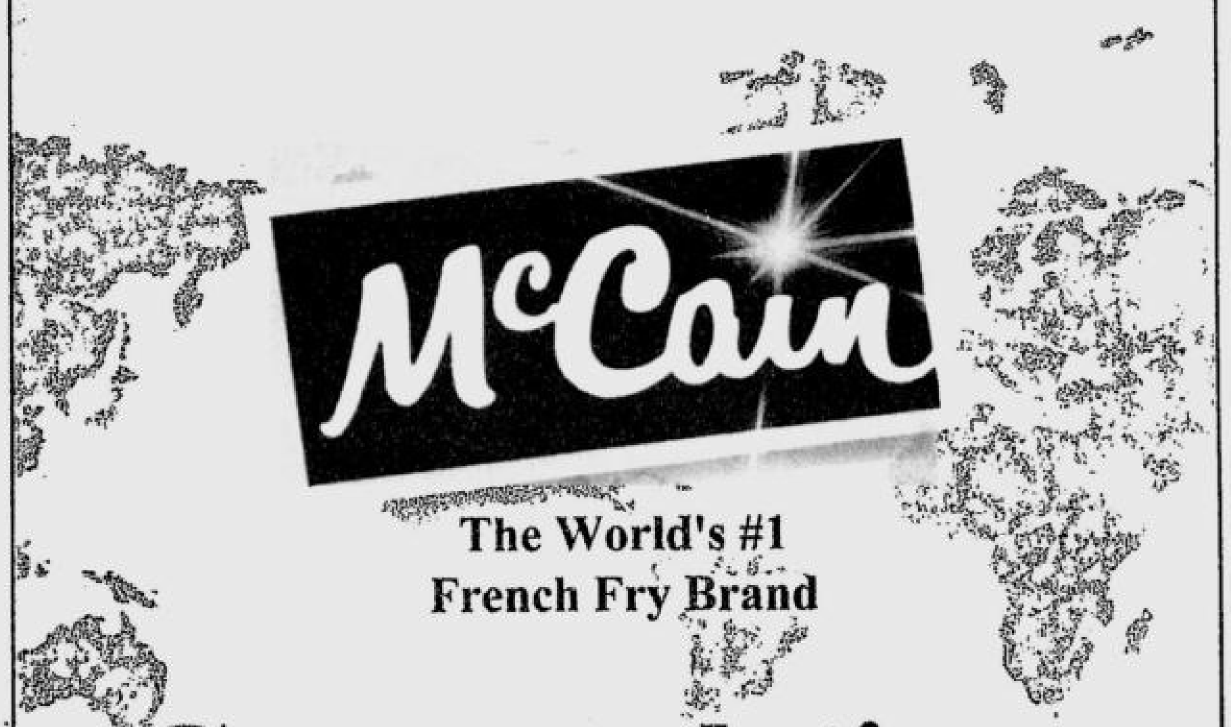

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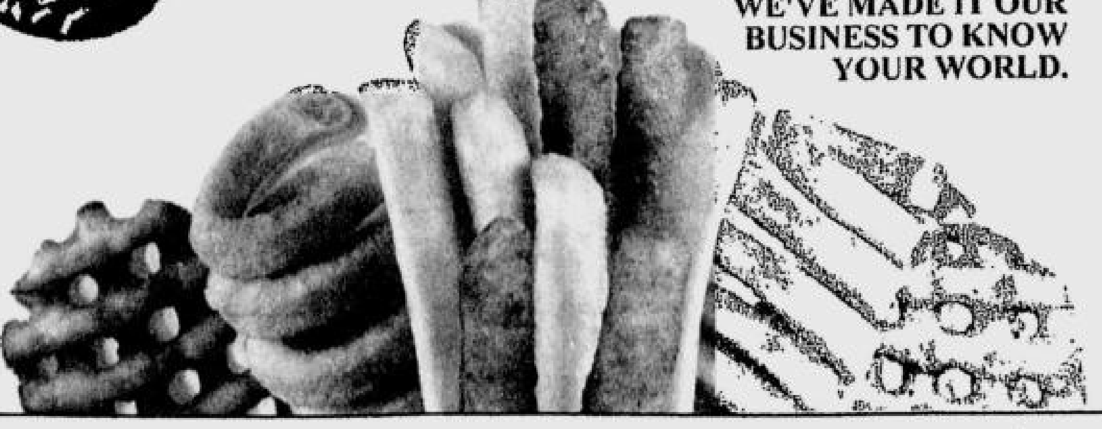
YOUR WORLD.



The Different Faces of Jollibee

New store designs redefine dining pleasure

For more than 20 years, Jollibee has never ceased to bring enjoyment to its customers through its well-loved products. As time passes, higher technology arrives, and customers' needs evolve, Jollibee continues to delight them by making innovative changes in its menu, its service, and even its stores.

Along with great food and superb service, a cozy ambience is key to giving customers a wonderful dining experience. That's why Jollibee builds new stores that respond to the constantly changing needs and preferences of its customers.

The integration of cutting-edge architectural design and modern facilities for excellent service - this is the vision of a modern Jollibee store under construction. This is what you will see and experience in the company's groundbreaking stores, such as Jollibee Vigan, Jollibee North Luzon Tollway, and Jollibee South Luzon Tollway.

Jollibee Vigan

This store was fashioned to blend with the character of Vigan, Ilocos Sur - rustic, antique, classic. It was designed not only for tourists who visit the place but also for the locals, who take pride in the "Bahay na Bato" houses their city is known for. The store design is so historically accurate and well executed that it has a stamp of approval from the Historic Commission of the Philippines.

The store is furnished with antique wall lamps, a chandelier and a wooden balustrade. Floors are laden with local Vigan cement flooring, characteristic of the city's archaic bungalows.

The store has a spacious dining area that can seat 203 diners at one time. It has a veranda on the second floor, overlooking the City Hall across the renowned Burgos Street of Vigan. It has ample parking space and modern bathroom fixtures.

Jollibee
Jollibee

With its unique combination of history and modern facility, the Vigan store may as well be another tourist attraction!

Jollibee North Luzon Tollway (NLT)

If you're on a long road trip, there are some stops you have to make on the highway, such as refilling your vehicle with water and fuel. Then there are some stops you'd *want* to make, like taking a break and having your fill of great food - at Jollibee North Luzon Tollway.

The store is within the Shell Service Station in the Manila-bound North Luzon expressway, first stop from the Dau and Sta. Ines exits. The South American-inspired, flatpave-roofed store has a homey ambience where travelers can stopover and relax from a long trip from the north, usually from Pampanga, Tarlac, Pangasinan or Baguio.

Jollibee NLT has a drive thru and ample parking space. It has a spacious dining area and the rest rooms are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. Travelers may dine outdoors in the veranda area, where they can relish the fresh breeze from the rice fields.

Jollibee South Luzon Tollway (SLT)

If there's one in the north, there has got to be a langhap-sarap *biyahe* for those traveling down south - Jollibee South Luzon Tollway (SLT) at the Shell SLT Station! Jollibee SLT features all things modern and hi-tech, from the exterior to the interior design. "We wanted a look that's consistent with the setting of the complex," said Yay Reventar, Jollibee Regional Business Unit head for South Luzon. "We took into consideration the needs of motorists and travelers, who are the primary market in that area."

Jollibee-SLT also boasts of a 3-window drive-thru. Inside the store is a wide counter of seven service terminals, which eliminates long lines. "We know travelers are always in a hurry so we make it a point that they are served their fill of langhap-sarap in no time," explained area manager Marie Natividad.

The two-storey, 926 square-meter store can accommodate up to 395 customers at one time. Sparkling clean restrooms with electronic sensors add to the pleasant break for travelers. On the second floor veranda, they can have a panoramic view of Muntinlupa and Laguna Bay, while enjoying their langhap-sarap food.

The South Luzon Tollway store was designed with fun, fiesta, and family in mind. The interplay of curves and angles, and mixture of yellow, red, and green colors reinforce Jollibee's image as a fun family place.

Being one of Jollibee's banner branches, Jollibee SLT will be open 24 hours a day until May 31 to accommodate the expected influx of people going out of town to Laguna, Batangas, Cavite, Quezon, and other provinces in the South.

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ON YOUR 400TH STORE,
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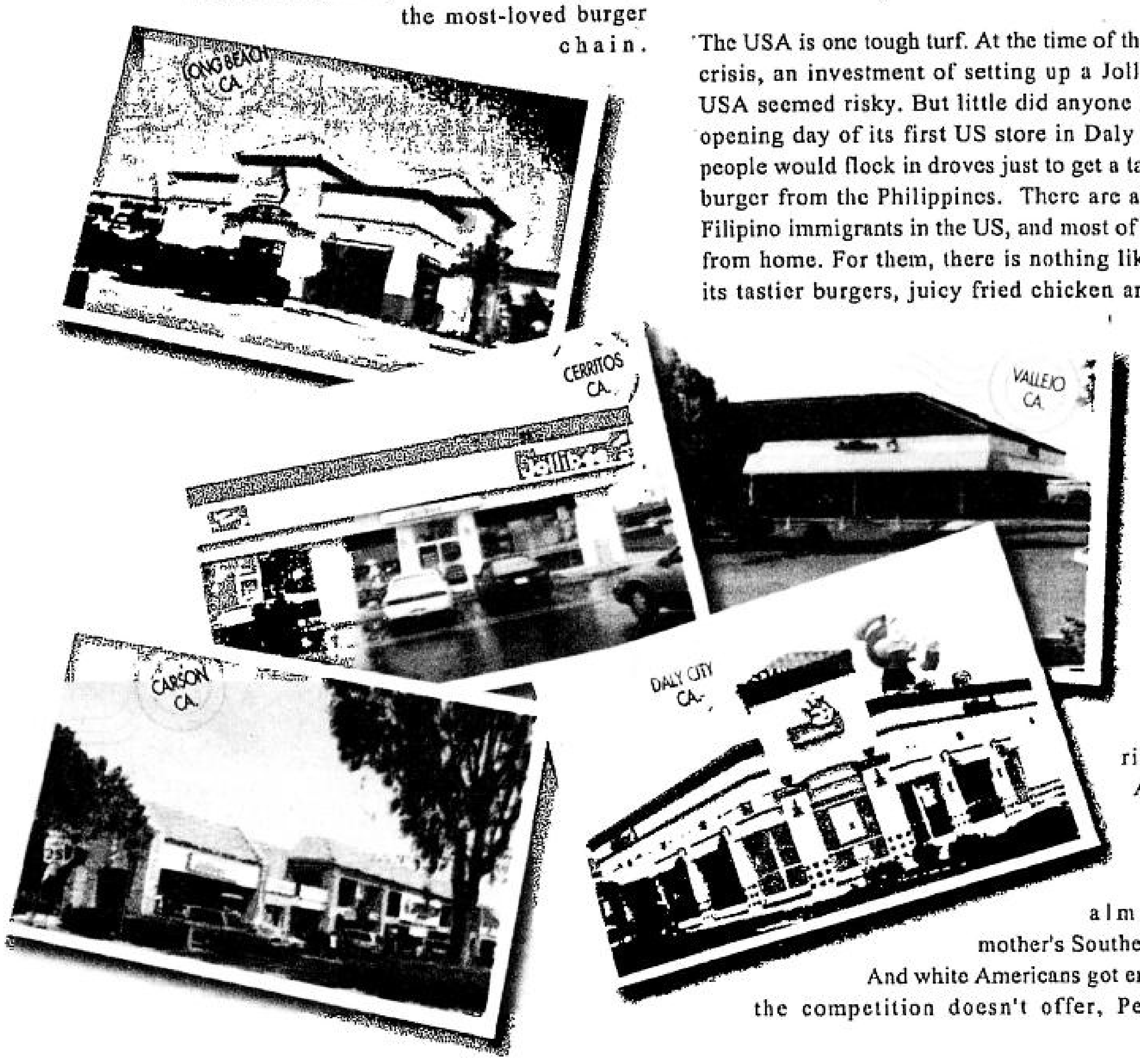
Jollibee: Beyond Borders

The homegrown giant sets foot on foreign shores

Are you visiting the USA? Shopping in Hong Kong? Working in the Middle East? Chances are, you'll see a friendly and familiar sight. Since 1987, Jollibee started expanding beyond our local shores to provide the famous langhap-sarap goodness to the rest of the world.

In the Philippines, Jollibee is undoubtedly the most-loved burger chain.



According to US news program WorldBiz Watch, it has beaten McDonald's, Wendy's and Burger King combined. A feat that has given Jollibee the distinction of being one of the world's most admired companies by the Far Eastern Economic Review. But Jollibee is not stopping here. It just laid the groundwork to reach out to other countries and give them a taste of the Philippines' most-loved burger.

The USA is one tough turf. At the time of the Asian economic crisis, an investment of setting up a Jollibee store in the USA seemed risky. But little did anyone know that on the opening day of its first US store in Daly City, California, people would flock in droves just to get a taste of the famous burger from the Philippines. There are about two million Filipino immigrants in the US, and most of them want a taste from home. For them, there is nothing like Jollibee - with its tastier burgers, juicy fried chicken and slightly sweet spaghetti.

And yet, the people in line aren't all Filipinos. Fellow Asians came with family in tow to eat Jollibee's Manila Breakfast or any of the scrumptious rice dishes. One African-American stated that the chicken is "excellent, almost like my mother's Southern fried chicken!" And white Americans got entranced with what the competition doesn't offer, Peach-Mango Pie.

In a span of just four months, four Jollibee stores received a warm welcome in California. Now with six stores later, and more opportunities for expansion, the Filipino company has truly found its way to the Americans' hearts.

Hong Kong is a different story. Filipino expatriates here are mostly lonely, having left their families behind to make a living. And for them it is quite a refreshing and uplifting sight to see a "kababayan". Jollibee opened their first store here in 1996, in Hong Kong's Central district. OCW's gathered in the store just like they do in the Hong Kong parks every Sunday - to chat, to see familiar faces, to again feel a sense of community. And this is what Hong Kong has brought to them - great food and a big Filipino welcome.

Filipino tourists and Hong Kong residents also found Jollibee a welcome sight. Pinoy shoppers who have run out of places to eat would rather stay with their reliable favorite. As for residents, they can identify with Jollibee's delectable offerings. After all, though it is a burger chain, the taste is uniquely Asian and has a lot more flavor than its Western competitors.

Just like Hong Kong, the Middle East is filled with weary Pinoys away from home. And Jollibee brings to them a sense of nostalgia - when they were out on a date, or when they were treating their families for a meal. Jollibee is a symbol of togetherness and good times, and having good food isn't bad either. Jollibee first opened in Kuwait in 1995.

Today there are 25 international stores in eight countries, including Brunei, Saipan, Guam, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Dubai. So if you do make an overseas trip, don't be surprised if you see a Jollibee store. Jollibee is expanding and creating more international stores in more countries to provide the rest of the world the same world-class food and service that you are enjoying today. And to leave you with a delicious thought: if you are about to bite into a Champ, it's comforting to know that like you, somebody across the world is enjoying it, too.

Dole
The World's Favorite Pineapple
Congratulates Jollibee®
For opening its 400th store!
Jollibee
Dole, "the world's favorite pineapple" supports the opening of Jollibee, "everybody's favorite place" in Muralla, Intramuros.
Partners in providing quality food and service.
Dole
The World's Favorite Pineapple

Congratulations to

Jollibee®

*for reaching
another milestone!*

MONTEREY®
QUALITY MEATS • QUALITY MEALS

JOLLIBEE'S QUALITY POLICY

In pursuit of Jollibee's vision to be a global food service leader, we must focus all our efforts on one guiding principle:

TOTAL CUSTOMER SATISFACTION.

To this end, we are committed to make Total Quality a way of life; to reduce Total Cycle time; to maintain Superiority in product and manufacturing; to advocate and practice Cost Efficiency; to Empower all in a participating, cooperative and creative workplace; and to be Responsive to the community and caring to the environment.

₱1 B Jollibee Commissary:

Foundation for Continuous Expansion

Jollibee Foods Corporation (JFC), the country's leading fastfood chain, is investing some P1 billion for the opening of a new manufacturing and distribution center in Carmelray I, Canlubang, Laguna to support the company's network expansion.

The new commissary will be the company's biggest so far, occupying a 10-hectare area in the bustling Calabarzon area. The complex is the company's third and will service about 700 stores (Jollibee and Greenwich combined) in the Luzon area, while another facility in Cebu will continue to serve the Visayas and Mindanao regions.

Jollibee's strategy to expand its commissary system, which is the largest of its kind in the country, provides the company with a competitive advantage in strengthening its market leadership. The commissaries allow the company to manage the supply requirements of its stores by assuring efficient manufacturing and distribution operations to meet the growing demands of its retail chains.

The new commissary will house manufacturing lines for hamburger patties, marinated chicken, buns, sauces, hotdogs and other processed meats, pizza crust, spice blends, and ancillary product requirements for Jollibee and its subsidiary Greenwich Pizza. These are produced from highest quality raw materials at competitive costs.

"The third commissary's processing lines are mechanized or automated to further improve the level of quality and cost efficiency so that we pass on these benefits to our customers," said Ms. Belen Rillo, Vice President for Commissary.

It will be equipped with a fully-automated bakery (where hamburger buns will be produced untouched by human hands from mixing to packaging), a frozen hamburger patty production line, chicken marinating plant, cold storage, dry goods warehousing facilities, and other support structures.

All major processing equipment will run on Programmable Logic Controllers and most will have the capability to be hooked into a central manufacturing control center.

With renewed optimism in the country's economy, Jollibee expects to strengthen its market leadership by opening more outlets.

Proposed design of Jollibee's state-of-the-art commissary

Journey through Jollibee History

In 1975, the Tan family put up an ice cream parlor in Cubao and
later, a full line of sandwiches was introduced, of which the yummy hamburger
from this, the Tans converted the business to a hamburger fast food chain. Th
born.

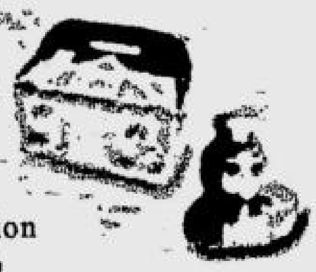
1978

Jollibee Foods Corporation is born, a certified 100% Filipino-owned company.

1980

The all-time favorite Chickenjoy is launched, and the well-loved Jollibee mascot debuts.

1982



Jollibee pioneers the use of in-store promotions and novelty premium items.

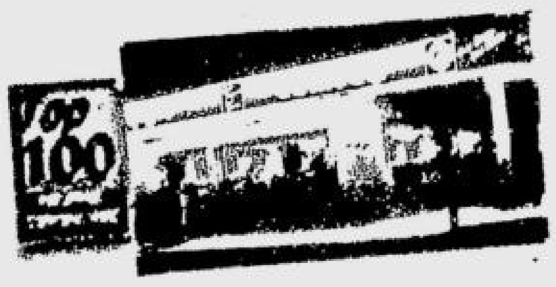
1984

The P500 million sales mark is reached, catapulting the company into the Top 500 Philippine Corporations list.

1985

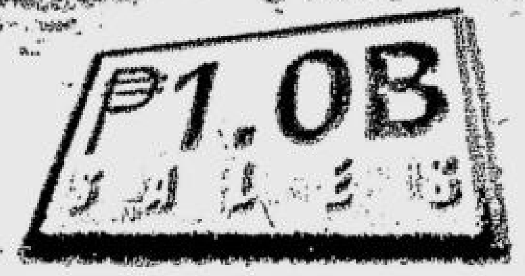
Jollibee becomes market leader of the fastfood Industry.

1987



Jollibee Brunei is opened, marking the company's entry into the global market. Jollibee becomes one of the Philippines' Top 100 Corporations.

1989



Jollibee's systemwide sales reach a record-breaking P1 billion.

Jollib
Davao
of an
store

1990

Jollibee receives the prestigious Award o
Excellence in Market
Management from th
Asian Institute of
Management.

Jollibee.
NESTEA congratulates Jollibee for its milestone 400th store!
Nestea
Take the plunge!

uiapo. Two years and five branches
vas the fastest selling. Taking the cue
1978, Jollibee Foods Corporation was

This is the humble beginning of Jollibee, now the country's leading fast food chain with 400 stores nationwide and over 20 stores overseas. The homegrown giant that has made millions of Filipinos smile with its great food and service. The international brand that has made millions of Filipinos proud. Here's a glimpse of the history of Jollibee, a grand adventure that has reached astonishing heights.

e's 100th store opens in
City, signaling the start
even more aggressive
xpansion program.

1991

Jollibee acquires Greenwich Pizza Corporation and is cited as one of the leading companies in Asia by the Far Eastern Economic Review.

1994

The 200th store opens in Malolos, Bulacan. Jollibee is once again cited by the Far Eastern Economic Review and Forbes magazines. The company also reengineers its visual identity system.

1996

For the third consecutive year, the Far Eastern Economic Review cites Jollibee as one of Asia's Leading Companies, topping the Philippine list this time. Jollibee acquires Chowking Foods Corporation.

2000

1993

The first food service company to be listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange, Jollibee opens its doors to investors via an Initial Public Offering.

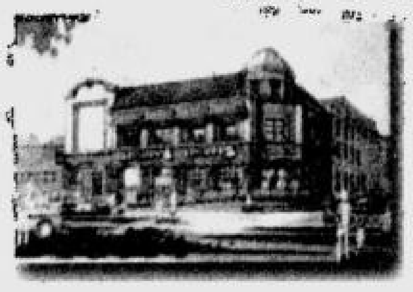
1995

Jollibee acquires franchise of Delifrance, an international food company.

1998

Jollibee penetrates the US market with the opening of Jollibee Daly City. The company celebrates its 20th year anniversary and opens its 300th store in Balagtas, Bulacan. It receives the ISO 9002 Certification for its frozen patty line. Jollibee wins the Employer of the Year Award.

2001



Jollibee opens its 400th store in the historic site of Intramuros.

Magnolia®
Premium Quality
FRESH CHICKEN

Chicken at its best

congratulates

Jollibee.

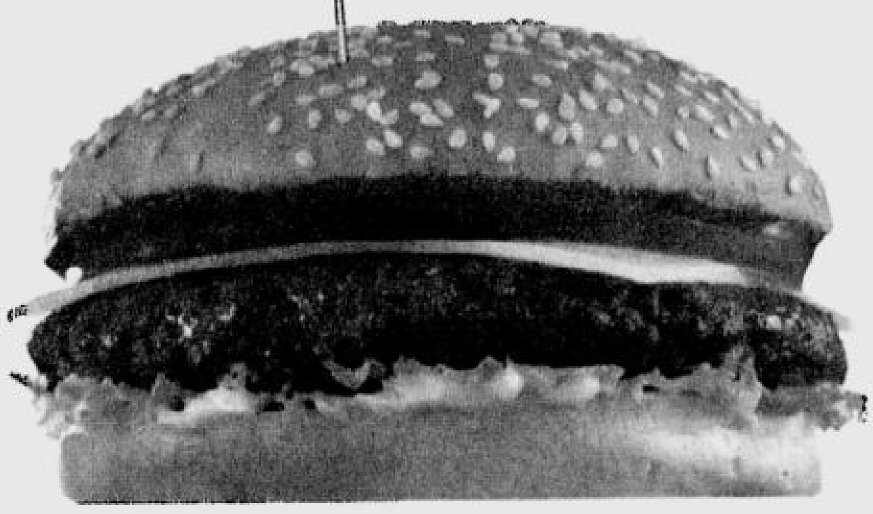
on yet another milestone

1 de Agosto, 1996

Isang arau na nakaukit sa aming alaala. Ito
ang makasaysayang simula ng ating
samahan na tunay naming ikinagalak.
Kaya't ngayon, sa pagbukas ng ika-400
Jollibee, muli naming ipinagdiriuang ang
aming pagiging bahagi ng inyong tagumpay.
Isa na naman itong arau na 'di namin
malilimutan.

McCANN-ERICKSON PHILS.

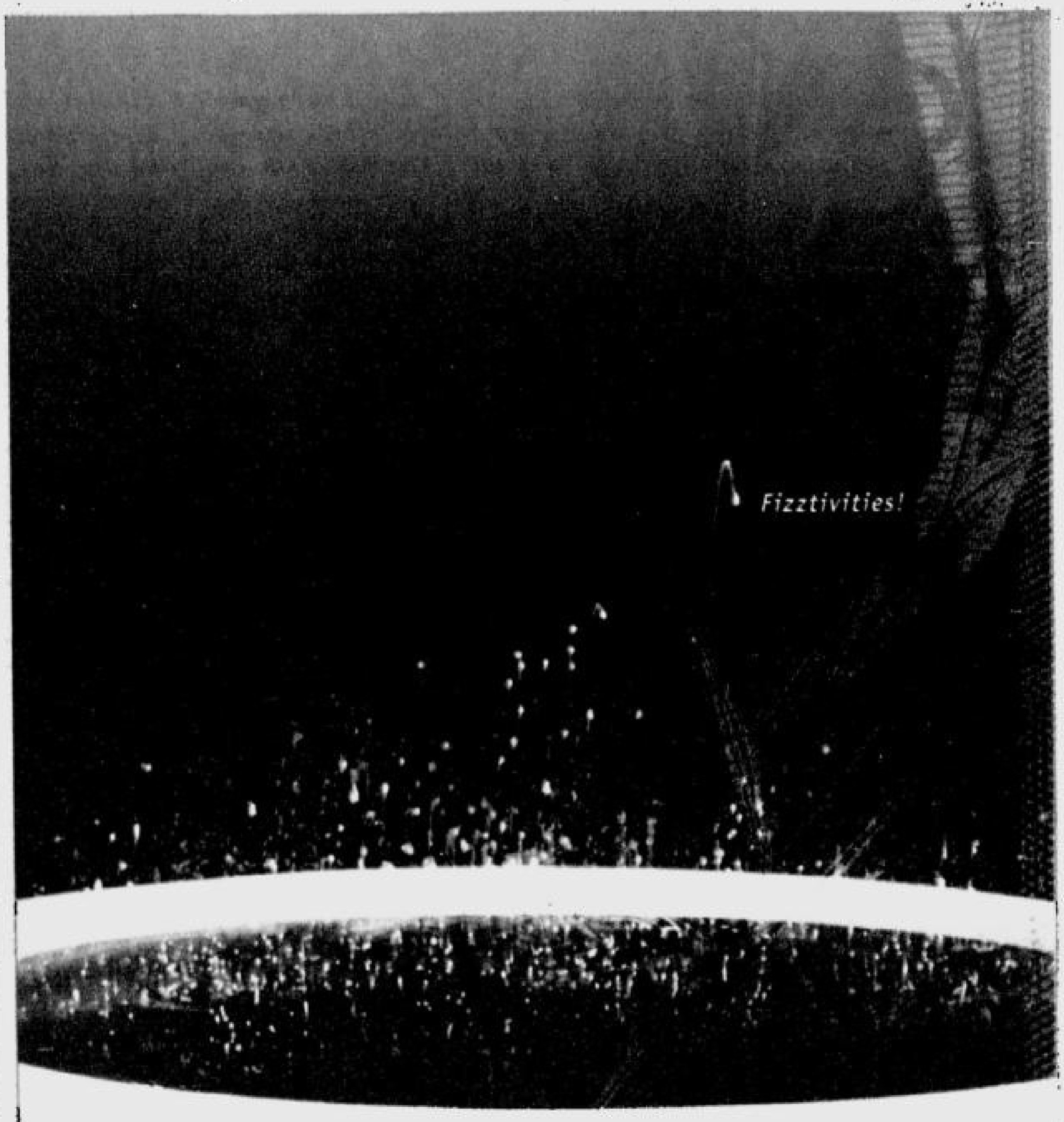
Ang tagumpay ng Jollibee ay tagumpay ng panlasang Pilipino.



Jollibee. and Del Monte ORIGINAL BLEND KETCHUP 100% NATURAL

400 stores strong.

Del Monte FOOD SERVICE



Jollibee.

Coca-Cola joins Jollibee in celebrating another triumph on May 25. Congratulations on your historic 400th store in the Philippines, Jollibee Muralla, Intramuros!

Sa pagdiriwang ng araw-araw na sarap ng buhay, walang tatalo sa pinagsamang sarap ng Jollibee at Coca-Cola.

Sarap ng buhay

Coca-Cola

"Coca-Cola" is a registered trademark of The Coca-Cola Company © 2001 The Coca-Cola Export Corporation.

Jollibee is our inspiration for excellence.

We would like to reiterate our commitment to continuously offer superior quality products, innovative food technology and best service to our partners in the food service industry.

To your continued success!

Edward Keller (Philippines) Inc.

GRIFFITH LABORATORIES (Philippines) Inc.

Getting to the Pinoy Heart of it...

Like the jeepney and fiesta, Jollibee has become a part of Filipino culture. Much credit, of course, goes to the flavorful food tailored to the Pinoy taste buds. But what has made the company more endearing to the people is a caring Pinoy heart. With programs that uplift the well-being of fellow citizens, Jollibee demonstrates a commitment to service that goes way beyond the store counter.

MaAGA ang Pasko

The MaAGA ang Pasko program is an in-store donation drive that distributes the donated toys and books to children in social institutions. The brainchild of popular actor Aga Muhlach, MaAGA ang Pasko has as its message the Christmas spirit of giving.

For six years, MaAGA donation boxes have appeared in October in Jollibee stores nationwide, filling up with toys and books as Christmas approaches. The project culminates in a delightful Christmas bash with Tito Aga. Kids get a grand Christmas experience filled with presents, their favorite Jollibee food, exciting games, and thrilling mascot performances.

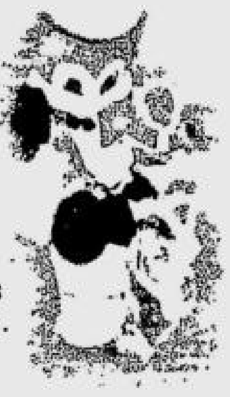
PArK

Kalinisan ng mundo,
ngsisimula sa paligid mo

Every April, in celebration of International Earth Day, Jollibee holds its nationwide Paglilingkod sa Araw ng Kalikasan (PArK). Jollibee store personnel work side by side with members of the Superkids Club and other volunteers to clean and improve various sites in the country..Color-coded trash bins are also donated to several recreational areas. Now on its third year, Jollibee PArK spruced up over 200 sites nationwide.

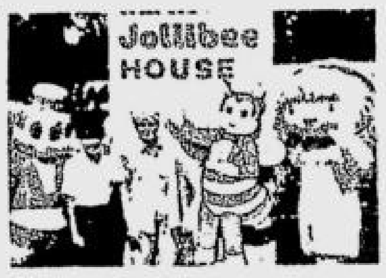
ABCD

Jollibee ABCD
A Blow-out on Children's Day



At Jollibee, making kids smile is as easy as ABCD - A Blowout on Children's Day! Once a year, Jollibee holds a grand kiddie party especially for underprivileged and handicapped children. Hundreds of lively store personnel conduct the jolliest parties in different children's institutions in the Philippines, treating children to a day full of their favorite Jollibee food, games and mascots. But the sharing doesn't end when the daylong party does; Jollibee also makes a lasting donation to these institutions -such as electric fans, cribs and books - to make the children's smiles last a lot longer.

Chosen Children



Chosen Children Village Foundation Inc. (CCVFI) is a private, non-profit organization that cares for physically and mentally handicapped children who have been abandoned. CCVFI is based in Las Piñas, Metro Manila, and was established by the husband-and-wife team of Ronald and Ma. Angeles Fullerton in 1992.

Believing in the mission of this foundation, Jollibee launched "Hulog Barya Para Sa Mga Bata" in 1998. The coin collection drive raised funds to support the daily needs of children in the foundation, such as milk, clothing and vitamins.

That same year, the **Jollibee House of Joy** was inaugurated - a cottage that enabled CCVFI to accommodate and care for more children. A peek inside the Jollibee cottage yields colorful cabinets, cribs and beds with hanging decors and stuffed toys, large baths and showers, and a cozy feeding area, bringing happiness to the little residents of the village.

Pabahay Pambuhay

PABAHAY PAMBUHAY

For a lot of Filipinos, the indignity of severe poverty is a daily reality, the dream of a home, unimaginable. To help poor families realize this dream, Jollibee partnered with Habitat for Humanity (HFHP) and created the Pabahay Pambuhay program.

Over 5,000 Pabahay Pambuhay donation cans were distributed in Jollibee, Chowking, Delifrance and Greenwich stores throughout the country to raise funds for building materials. Employees of Jollibee Foods Corporation also donated sweat - by helping construct the houses themselves. Braving the cold December rains and the noonday sun, they worked alongside HFHP home partners and volunteers in Talon Uno, Las Piñas.

With Pabahay Pambuhay, Jollibee fortifies its dedication to help Filipino families build not only homes, but their hopes for a better life.

Museo Pambata, Biyaheng Adarna, Chikiting Patrol

Chikiting Patrol
AT HOME AK DIT

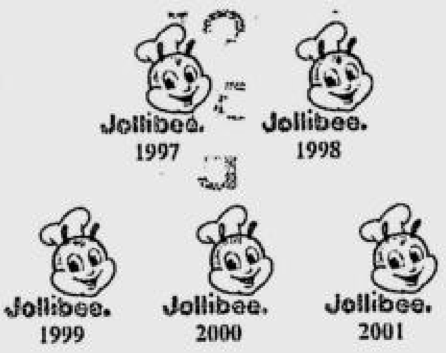
Besides nourishing bodies and spirits, Jollibee strives to nourish the minds of children by pledging support for organizations that promote literacy and educational endeavors.

An example is Museo Pambata and the City of Manila's literacy campaign billed "Sa Aklat Sisikat" in 1999. Aimed at encouraging reading among children, the project kicked off with a poster campaign in various Manila schools. Currently, Jollibee is backing up "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges", a workshop of Museo Pambata that aims to make the Filipino youth proud of their roots.

Another project that Jollibee supports is Adarna Publishing's "Biyaheng Adarna". The project, in cooperation with Filipinas Heritage Library, promotes the value of reading and learning through book giveaways and entertaining activities such as storytelling and games. "Bihayeng Adarna" is held in different barangays, reaching and teaching a lot of children.

Jollibee also sponsors a weekly educational TV program called Chikiting Patrol, hosted by talented members of the Jollibee Superkids Club. The program, which airs every Sunday at 9:00AM on GMA Network, imparts useful information and positive values to thousands of young viewers nationwide.

◆



IT'S 3 & 5 IN A ROW FOR

cdo®
FOODSPHERE, INC.

CDO-FOODSPHERE, which was Voted by the Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP) as the Most Outstanding Meat Processing Company for 3 straight years, has been providing Jollibee with High Quality Processed Meats for 5 straight years.

cdo®
FOODSPHERE, INC.
Nourishing Life,
Nurturing Partnerships.
www.cdo.com.ph

CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR 400th STORE!

This milestone is a proof of your growing dedication to the Filipino people in providing the highest standards in food quality and service.

Your continued efforts for globalization has earned you the admiration of the international market making you one of Asia's most admired companies.

As your partner in the pursuit for excellence, we reaffirm our commitment fo provide you with successful promotional programs adhering to international safety standards.

WE SALUTE JOLLIBEE AS THE PRIDE OF FILIPINOS WORLDWIDE!

MAXX
MAXX MARKETING LIMITED

MAXX MARKETING LIMITED
Representative Office
Unit 905 Richmonde Plaza San Miguel Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
Tel: 633 6396 to 97
Fax: 633 6409
email: maxx_ph@mindgate.net

Hong Kong
Manila
Shanghai
Bangkok
Seoul
Tokyo
Los Angeles

"Tuloy po kayo!"

Service that makes you feel at home

There is nothing like Pinoy hospitality.

When guests are expected in a Filipino home, much preparation takes place: cooking up a hearty meal that will impress and satisfy; setting the table using the best dinnerware; making sure every room in the house is squeaky-clean. And when the guests arrive, the gracious Pinoy host treats them like royalty, attending to their every need. He does everything to make the guests feel at home, to make their visit a memorable one.

In a Jollibee store, much effort and preparation also takes place so that customers will have a delightful experience each time they visit. That is why the company implements high standards of FSC - Food, Service and Cleanliness.

FOOD

Aah, food. That's what guests are here for. And they deserve nothing less than a scrumptious langhap-sarap meal. Jollibee's kitchens are constantly busy, creating meals that will suit the taste buds of every kind of guest. Jollibee employs and enforces the safest food practices in the supply, manufacturing, preparation and serving of its products. The company selects the best ingredients from the most reputable suppliers. It uses state-of-the-art equipment in the storage and distribution of products. The store crew is thoroughly trained to prepare products according to Jollibee's Gold Standard - the benchmark for quality that includes superior product taste, appetizing food appearance and products being served hot to customers.

SERVICE

Guests must be treated warmly, to make them feel welcome. Jollibee boasts of jolly and friendly people who do exactly that. The store's frontliners are dedicated and talented young people, chosen by way of a thorough and strict crew recruitment process. Their mission is to provide fast and friendly service. Stores follow a serving time standard - to deliver food fresh and hot in the fastest possible time. Complaints are also addressed quickly. To make sure the stores provide great service consistently, the company conducts regular audits.

And because Jollibee always has many guests, the company opens more and more stores in strategic areas to meet the growing demands of customers.

CLEANLINESS

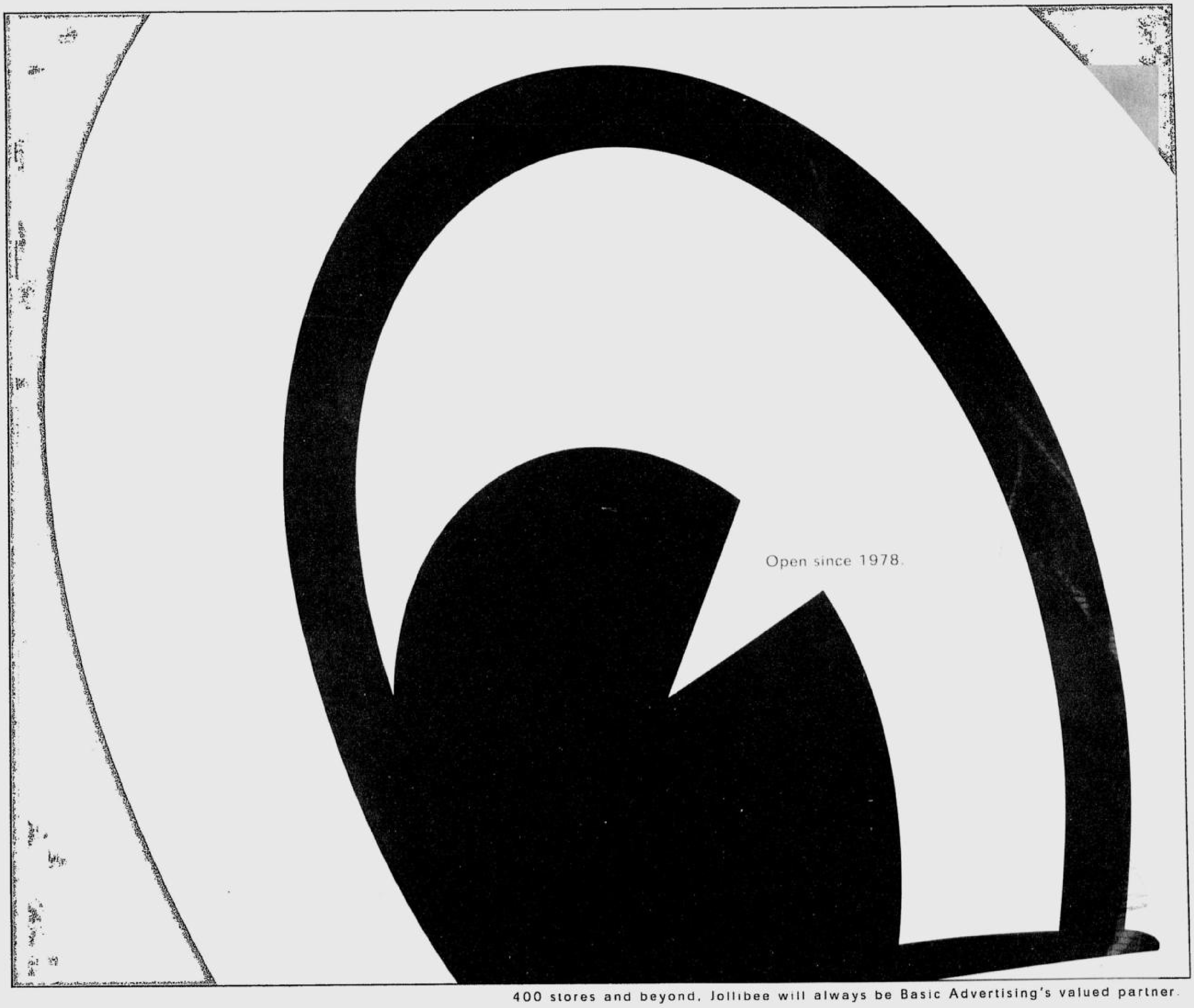
Like all homes expecting visitors, Jollibee makes sure every part of the store is spic and span - from the kitchen to the dining area, to the play area and the store exterior. The company employs a global standard of cleanliness. Stores have a "clean as you go" policy. Employees undergo a special sanitation and hygiene training program. Jollibee conducts regular internal and external sanitation checks, and makes sure that the condition and appearance of the stores are well maintained.

The company's policy on cleanliness extends to the protection and preservation of the environment. Jollibee uses CFC-free styropore packaging materials and constantly seeks better alternatives for packaging. Stores are equipped with proper waste treatment and disposal facilities.

So "tuloy po kayo", enjoy a meal suited to your taste. Let your children play, knowing that they are safe and happy. Savor the friendly smiles, the warmth and attention.

And if you feel strangely at home, don't be surprised; for Jollibee merely patterned its service after the Filipino home.

◆

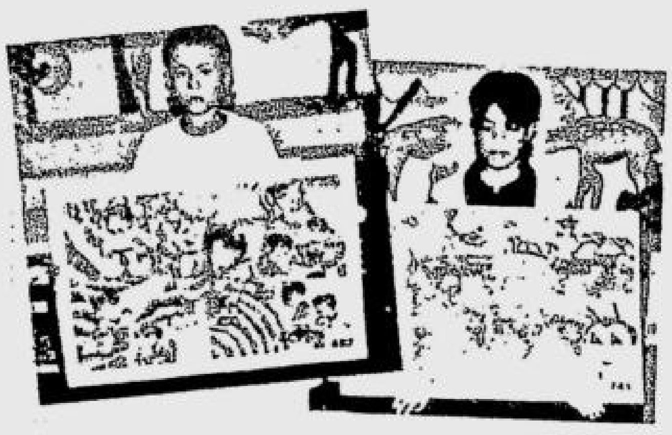

Open since 1978.

400 stores and beyond, Jollibee will always be Basic Advertising's valued partner.

Sabi ng Jollibee.
Kaya Mo, KiD!

Empowering the Filipino Child

Sabi ng Jollibee.
Kaya Mong Mag-Drawing, KiD!



The first of the series of contests was "Kaya Mong Mag-Drawing, Kid!" held in 1997. Artworks conveyed what children can do in their own little way to help create a brighter future. The winning artworks were transformed into murals, creating a happy, colorful atmosphere in different children's institutions and hospitals.

The "Kaya Mo, Kid!" book is a compilation of winning entries from the first two competitions, "Kaya Mong Mag-Drawing, Kid!" mural design contest and "Kaya Mong Sumulat, Kid!" essay writing contest. The book is available in all National Bookstore branches.

Sabi ng Jollibee.
Kaya Mong Sumulat, KiD!

Adults sometimes take children for granted, dismissing their words and dreams because they're "too young" to understand or do anything. But it is precisely at a tender age when children absorb everything - cartoons, commercials, songs, language, and habits - whether good or bad. It is the age when character is beginning to develop, and therefore the time when they need guidance the most.

Filipino children being majority of its customers, Jollibee believes it has a responsibility for their development. That is why in 1997, it launched the "Sabi ng Jollibee, Kaya Mo, Kid!" campaign.

The "Kaya Mo, Kid!" *(You can do it, kid!)* campaign is aimed at empowering Filipino children to be the best they can be. It encourages them to do what they can in their own little way, to boldly take that step towards their bright future. Now on its fifth year, the campaign advocates different values in its engaging advertising and meaningful children's competitions.

Previous competitions, which are co-sponsored by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), have included essay writing, drawing, recycling, and storybook writing contests. These competitions, coupled with value-centered, public service advertising encourage children to take an active part in their self-development.

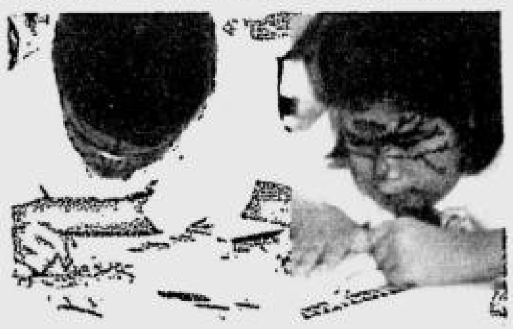
Sabi ng Jollibee.
Kaya Mong Lumikha, KiD!

Efforts of "Kaya Mo, Kid!" to communicate positive values to children did not remain unnoticed. The campaign received the Values Advertising Award from the Philippine Association of National Advertisers in 1998; the Creative Guild's Ad of the Month for Banana TV commercial in 1999; and the Grand Anvil Award given by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines in 2000. These award-giving bodies recognized the campaign as a noble contribution to Philippine society.

Keeping the environment clean was the thrust of Kaya Mo Kid in 1999. That same year "Kaya Mong Lumikha, Kid!" scrap art contest was launched, teaching children to build useful objects from recycled materials. Winning entries were on exhibit at the Museo Pambata last February 2000.

But for Jollibee, to make a difference in even just a few children's lives would have made all its efforts worthwhile.

"Kaya Mo, Kid!" instills in children, even at this young age, a sense of moral responsibility - be it at home, in school, in the local community, or in the country. Ultimately, with this campaign Jollibee desires to help raise a generation of responsible, confident and principled Filipinos.



2000 was the Year of the Family. Kaya Mo Kid's commercials and contest centered on the theme: "how you can help strengthen the family bond". The winning storybooks were on display at the Children's Library last January 2001.

And if this seems too noble a cause, too high an ambition for one company, Jollibee just takes a deep breath, holds its head high and says, "Kaya Mo, Kid!"

PROMOTIONAL
PARTNERS
WORLDWIDE

Congratulates and fully supports
Jollibee®
for the opening
of its 400th store!

We look forward
to a continued
partnership!

Greetings from your food service partner
caterplan
Knorr Lady's Choice Best Foods®

HATS-OFF!
ON THE OPENING OF YOUR
400TH STORE

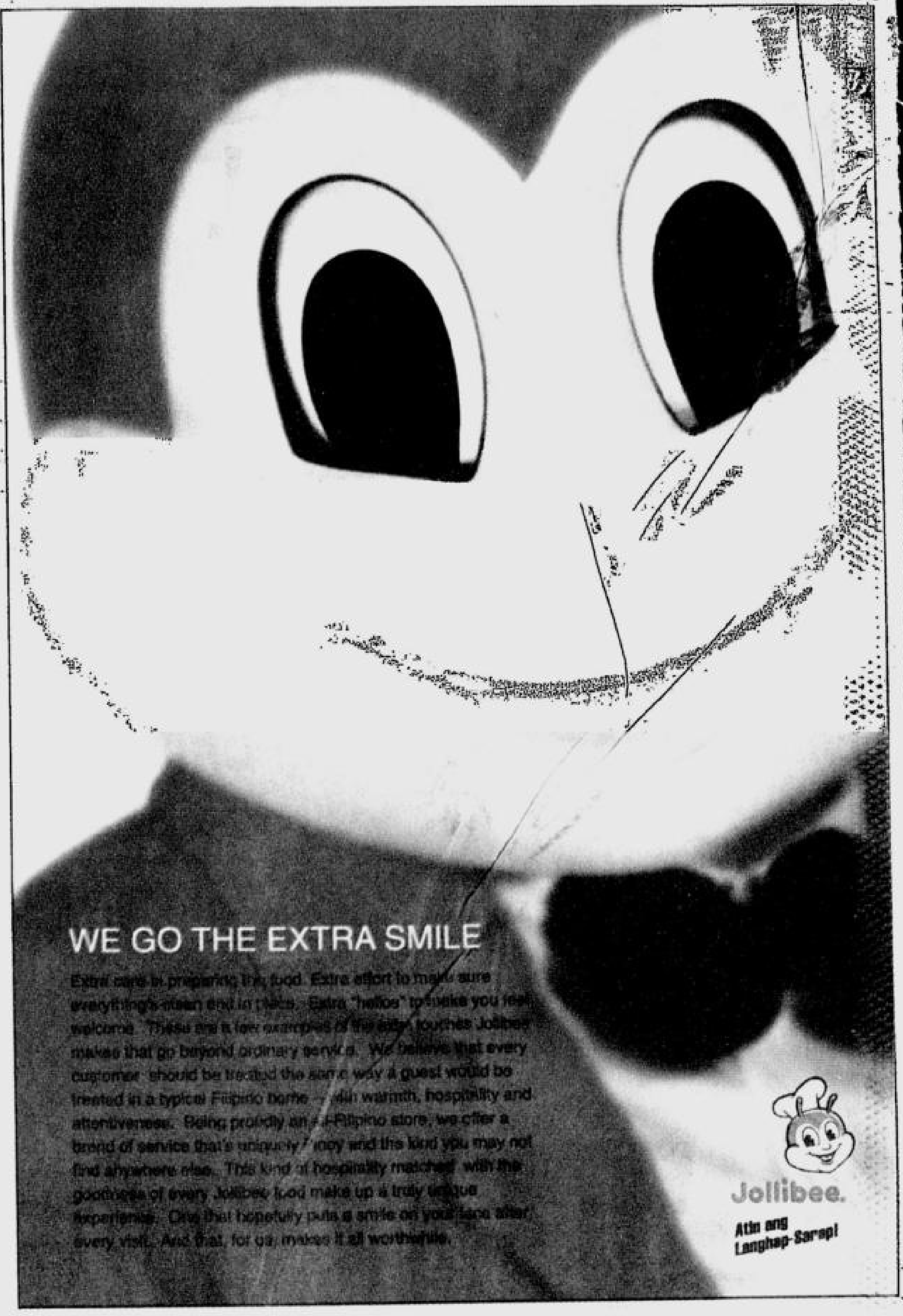
Congratulations to

Jollibee.

on your 400th store!

You... deserve the best

Bounty Fresh CHICKEN



WE GO THE EXTRA SMILE

Extra care in preparing the food. Extra effort to make sure everything's clean and in place. Extra "hellos" to make you feel welcome. These are a few examples of the extra touches Jollibee makes that go beyond ordinary service. We believe that every customer should be treated the same way a guest would be treated in a typical Filipino home — with warmth, hospitality and attentiveness. Being proudly an all-Filipino store, we offer a brand of service that's uniquely Pinoy and the kind you may not find anywhere else. This kind of hospitality matched with the goodness of every Jollibee food make up a truly unique experience. One that hopefully puts a smile on your face after every visit. And that, for us, makes it all worthwhile.

Jollibee.

Atin ang Langhap-Sarap!

MESSAGE

The Technolux Family congratulates Jollibee on the opening of its 400th store.

From a modest beginning to becoming the number one fastfood chain in the Philippines, the Jollibee story is truly a model of success.

Indeed, we are proud to be part of it all.

TECHNOLUX MANAGEMENT

Congratulations!

Manitowoc Ice Making Machine

TAYLOR Soft-serve Ice Cream Machine

Frymaster Fryers

WOLF Infra-Red Griddle

roundup Hotdog Steamer

Jollibee®

We're proud to be part of your success.

OTHER PRODUCTS:

ALTO-SHAAM Display & Holding Cabinets

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schaerer Automatic Coffee Machines

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VitaMix Drink Machines

(FAST.) Computer Timers

JETSPRAY Juice Dispensers

WORLD DRYER Hand Dryers

Lincoln Conveyorized Ovens

Amana Compact Convection Microwave Ovens

Hickory Chicken Rotisseries

winterhalter Warewashing Machines

KOLD Glass Door Merchandizers, Reach-In Chillers & Freezers, Walk-Ins

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E-mail: tlxsales@technolux.net • **Website: www.technolux.net**

CEBU BRANCH
Door No.9 Adolfo C. Fick Bldg., H. Cortes St.
corner Ayala Access Road, Mandaue City
Tels.: 344-0417 to 18 • Telefax: (6332) 346-3954
E-mail: cebu_office@technolux.net

DAVAO BRANCH
Door No.6 ALCREJ (GAHOL) Bldg. E. Jacinto Ext.
corner Arellano St., Davao City
Tels.: (6382) 221-3111 • Telefax: (6382) 221-1411
E-mail: davao_office@technolux.net

Congratulations to

Jollibee

on your 400th store!

You... deserve the best

Bounty Fresh CHICKEN

WE GO THE EXTRA SMILE

Extra care in preparing the food. Extra effort to make sure everything's clean and in place. Extra "hellos" to make you feel welcome. These are a few examples of the extra touches Jollibee makes that go beyond ordinary service. We believe that every customer should be treated the same way a guest would be treated in a typical Filipino home – with warmth, hospitality and attentiveness. Being proudly an all-Filipino store, we offer a brand of service that's uniquely ours and the kind you may not find anywhere else. This kind of hospitality matched with the goodness of every Jollibee food make up a truly unique experience. One that hopefully puts a smile on your face after every visit. And that, for us, makes it all worthwhile.

Jollibee.

Atin ang Langhap-Sarap!

MESSAGE

The Technolux Family congratulat Jollibee on the opening of its th store

From modest beginning becoming the number one fast chain in the Philippines, the story is truly a model of s

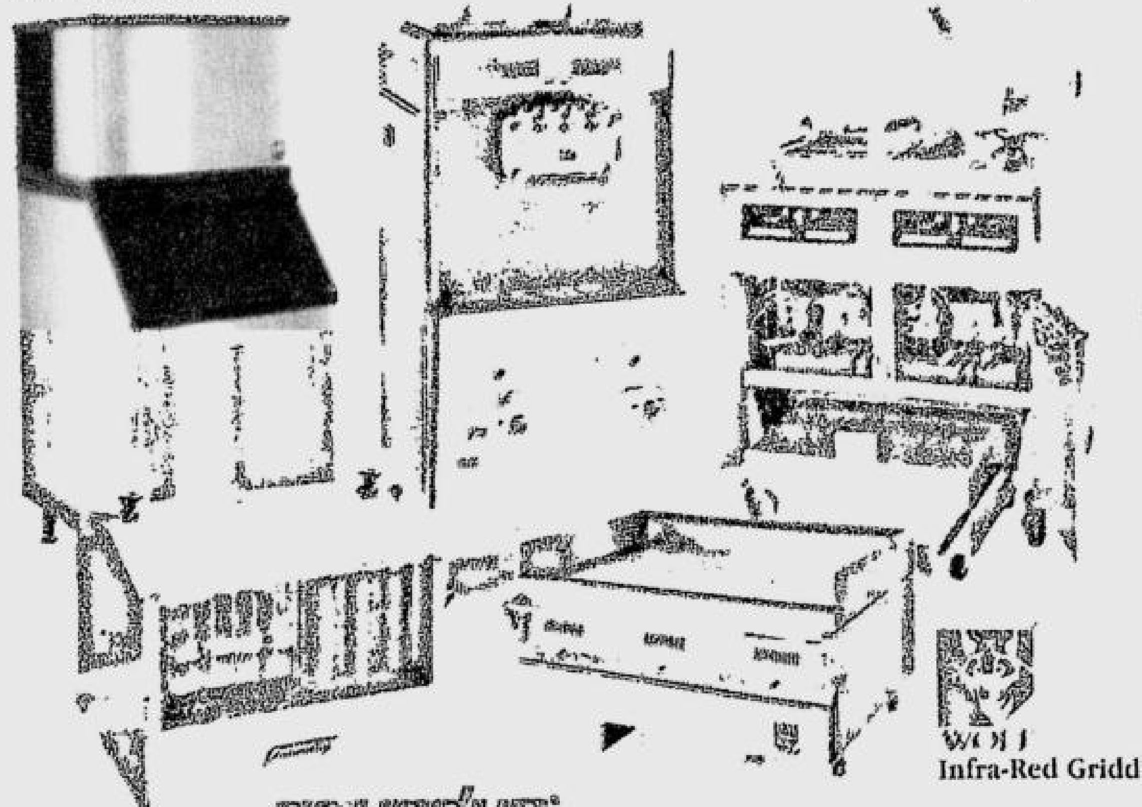
Indeed, we are proud to be part of it all.

TECHNOLUX MANAGEMENT

Congratulations!

Jollibee®

We're proud to be part of your success.



OTHER PRODUCTS:

ALTO-SHAAM Display & Holding Cabinets
CARTER-HOFFMANN Humidity Controlled Holding Cabinets
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Vita-Mix Drink Machines
(FAST.) Computer Timers
JET SPRAY Juice Dispensers
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CONSULTANCY • EQUIPMENT • PARTS • SERVICE

TECHNOLUX CENTER
4th Floor, THC Bldg., 2176 Primo Rivera St., La Paz, Makati City
Tels.: (632) 896-4941, (632) 899-4529 • Fax: (632) 899-4528
E-mail: tlxsales@technolux.net • **Website: www.technolux.net**

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CONGRATULATIONS JOLLIBEE

OAKEY ABATTOIR
KEY
THE KEY TO QUALITY

BORTHWICKS

NIPPON MEAT PACKERS
AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

WINGHAM BEEF EXPORTS

SUPPLIERS OF CLEAN, SAFE AUSTRALIAN BEEF ARE PROUD PARTNERS OF JOLLIBEE FOODS CORPORATION

NIPPON MEAT PACKERS AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED
Level 15, 124 Walker St. North Sydney NSW 2060, Australia
Phone: 612 9923 2322 Fax: 612 9922 3246
Email: ddougherty@nmpa.com.au

NEW ZEALAND CREAMERY, INC. congratulates
JOLLIBEE FOODS CORPORATION
on the opening of its

400th BRANCH

in MURALLA STREET, INTRAMUROS MANILA

Congratulations!!!

Jollibee. Jollibee.

NZC Inc QBB CHE-DAR QUEENSLAND BUTTER COMPOUND CHE-VITAL

NEW ZEALAND CREAMERY, INC. 6409 Camia Street, Makati City Tel. Nos. 890-4185, 890-4191 email add: new_zealand@pacific.net.ph

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AMH
Beef is our Business

Congratulations on the opening of your 400th store!

Foodpartners

For more information call
897-1358, 896-4266
mastaba@surshop.net.ph

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

It gives me special pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to **Jollibee Foods Corporation** on the opening of its 400th store in Muralla, Intramuros, Manila.

The continuing existence of your company for the past 25 years is a manifestation of how Filipino businesses can remain competitive and excel in today's era of globalization. Starting as a modest 2-branch ice cream parlor in 1975, Jollibee Foods Corporation has grown to a network of 400 stores nationwide and more than 25 branches abroad. Today, you have become one of Asia's most admired and best managed companies. Such outstanding performance is worthy of emulation, and I join the entire Filipino nation in congratulating you on your further expansion in the historic city of Intramuros.

Your role in fostering a more sustained growth for our country has become vital especially now that we are at a delicate phase in our country's recovery efforts. I call on the dynamic people of your company to keep up the good work by helping the new administration achieve development goals so that more of our countrymen's lives will be uplifted.

I urge you to sustain your active participation in the efforts to improve our country. Let us continue our work together in steering the Philippines towards economic recovery and greater peace, progress and prosperity.

Congratulations and *MABUHAY!*

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

MANILA
24 May 2001

Jollibee.

Jollibee's 400th store in Intramuros - historically the hub of Manila, the nation's capital - symbolizes the company's undisputed leadership in the Philippine quick service restaurant industry.

Hailed as the brand that changed the eating habits of a generation of Filipinos, Jollibee's opening of yet another store attests to its commitment to reach out and be accessible to its ever-growing number of customers. Indeed, this modern Pinoy icon will continue to provide its unique kind of delightful dining experience to many more generations of Filipinos by being there wherever they are.

My sincerest gratitude to our employees and business partners for keeping the Jollibee entrepreneurial spirit alive, and to our customers for inspiring us to continuously better ourselves in our efforts to serve them better.

TONY TAN CAKTIONG
President
Jollibee Foods Corporation

Intramuros Administration

On behalf of the Intramuros Administration, I would like to convey my sincerest congratulations to Jollibee Foods Corporation on the opening of its 400th Jollibee store along Muralla, Intramuros, Manila.

Intramuros is already a major tourism attraction because of its rich and colorful history. Originally the seat of the Church and State and an enclave for the Spaniards during the Spanish colonial times, this Walled City has been a mute witness to many major events in Philippine history. From the Spanish colonization to the Japanese occupation, Intramuros saw our people's struggle and rise to independence.

Today, Intramuros achieves another historical milestone by becoming the site of Jollibee's 400th store.

As we further develop this historic district into a tourist destination, we need service-oriented institutions that could help us serve the needs of our visitors. Hence, Jollibee's presence here is a welcome development as it helps us showcase Intramuros' historical significance as the City of Manila continues its march to progress.

Again, congratulations and more power to your organization.

DOMINADOR FERRER, JR.
Administrator
Intramuros Administration

Jollibee
Apat na Daan
HANDAAN

Dahil may 400 stores na ang Jollibee,
SAVE ₱4.00
sa piling langhap-sarap
value meals!

May 21 - 25, 2001

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1204 Series of 2001.